

Nato leaders fire warning at Gorbachov

Alliance getting down to business says Reagan

From Richard Owen and Michael Evans, Brussels

The first full Nato summit meeting for six years ended yesterday with a display of alliance unity which President Reagan said made Nato "the most dynamic force for improvement in East-West relations".

The summit sent a strong signal to Mr Mikhail Gorbachov that the West would not allow Moscow to create divisions among the Allies, and laid down guidelines for future "credible nuclear and conventional deterrence".

Nato was now "ready to get

down to business", President Reagan said.

Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, gave a lyrical account of the meeting, saying: "Nowhere have I felt more the vitality of freedom."

"Those words sound a little corny, but this was the real thing," Mr Shultz said. "It felt good."

Mrs Thatcher commented: "We achieved all the objectives we set ourselves." Other leaders, including Chancellor

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Helmut Kohl of West Germany, said they also had been struck by the "spirit of unity".

After Wednesday's separate statement from the summit meeting, challenging Mr Gorbachov to cut conventional forces, the final declaration yesterday gave backing to Mrs Thatcher's demand for modernized nuclear weapons in Europe. Such weapons "will continue to be kept up to date where necessary".

Despite criticism that this careful formula was a "fudge" allowing West Germany to argue in future against the modernization of short-range nuclear missiles on German soil, Mrs Thatcher said she was "very pleased" with the outcome.

Sources said the Germans and others had fought hard for the phrase "if necessary", but at the Foreign Ministers' dinner on Wednesday Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, supported by Mr Shultz, was adamant "it" was out, "when" had to be in. "This was more than a battle about one word," one official said.

Chancellor Kohl, facing coalition differences over the short-range missile issue, said the reference in the communiqué to updating missiles definitely included those with a range under 300 miles - in other words, the short-range weapons left after the withdrawal of cruise and Pershing 2 under the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty. The Brussels declaration refers to "an appropriate mix of adequate

his controversial pre-summit and effective nuclear and conventional forces".

Herr Kohl said there was no need to take modernization decisions now, and Bonn would play its part in updating weapon systems "when required". "We do not need advice on this," Herr Kohl said. Asked why the words "kept up to date" had been used instead of "modernized", Herr Kohl said that was a "theological quarrel" over a matter of translation. Both the French and German texts said weapons would be maintained "at the level required".

British officials said Herr Kohl had found himself "isolated" in resisting modernization. President Mitterrand, the first French leader to attend a Nato summit meeting for 22 years, said the Allies had to understand German sensitivities about short-range weapons, but did not repeat meeting remark that modernization was "paradoxical". He said the summit meeting agreement to strengthen the European pillar of Nato embraced Franco-German co-operation.

Mr Reagan said there was an "absolute necessity" to maintain the credibility of Nato's deterrent, adding: "We will not give it away either through negotiation or through neglect." The summit meeting gave full backing to his forthcoming bid to negotiate deep cuts in strategic missiles at the Moscow super-power summit meeting.

Mrs Thatcher delivered a stern warning to the West to keep up its guard while

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Wary eyes on the absent 'friend'

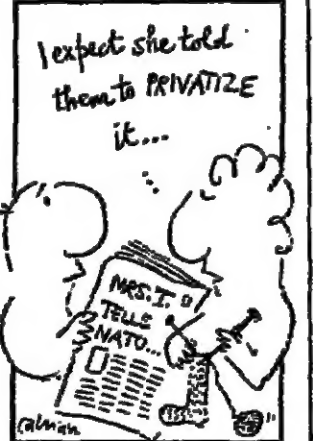
From Richard Owen, Brussels

It was a summit dominated by three powerful world personalities, two of whom - President Reagan and Mrs Thatcher - were present, and one of whom - Mr Mikhail Gorbachov - was not.

Mrs Thatcher yesterday compared her own leadership with that of Mr Gorbachov, remarking at one point that "all governments have their weaker brethren", in an apparent reference to defeated opposition within her own "Politburo", as well as to Mr Gorbachov's difficulties with his colleagues.

The debate over how to respond to the Gorbachov leadership played a key role in this week's reassessment of strategy.

President Mitterrand of France told the summit - to laughter from his fellow leaders - that Mr Gorbachov was "no Gandhi", a reference to the Indian practitioner of passive resistance.



Saudi stake in TV-am puts station in jeopardy



Losing their votes: Timothy Aitken, the former TV-am chairman (left) and Jonathan Aitken

Authority issues terse 'change or close' demand

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

TV-am, the strife-torn commercial television station, could be closed unless swift action is taken to reduce the Saudi stake in the company.

In a toughly worded statement, the Independent Broadcasting Authority demanded last night that the 15 per cent "non-EEC" interest in the company be reduced to below 10 per cent - and insisted that Mr Timothy Aitken, the former chairman, and Mr Jonathan Aitken, a former director, lose any voting rights.

"Failure to carry out these procedures in the required timescale would place the contract between TV-am and the IBA in jeopardy", the authority said.

The Aitkens have said they intend to dispose of Beaverbrook Investments, the parent company of Aitken Telecommunications Holdings Ltd (ATHL), which holds the 15 per cent Saudi stake in TV-am.

After an IBA board meeting yesterday, the authority notified TV-am that the special status which allowed ATHL to hold more than 10 per cent of TV-am would cease to apply by March 11. Non-EEC stakes in independent TV companies are not allowed to exceed 10 per cent without IBA permission.

TV-am will have to notify the Aitken company that its shareholding must be reduced to below 10 per cent within 21 days of March 11.

"Failure by ATHL to comply will require the board of TV-am to assume responsibility for the disposal of the shares", the statement said.

"In the light of the programme contract between the

IBA and TV-am, which entitles the IBA to issue a determination notice if the disposal is not made within a 60-day period, the IBA has told the board of TV-am that it expects this disposal to take place as rapidly as possible.

"The IBA has told the board of TV-am to take immediate steps to disenfranchise the ATHL holding."

The IBA action is a severe rebuke for the breakfast-time company and, even assuming TV-am succeeds in fulfilling the instructions, it must place a question mark over the future renewal of its franchise.

Although Mr Jonathan Aitken, Conservative MP for Thanet South, resigned from the company after admitting to making an error of judgement, his cousin, Mr Timothy Aitken, remained a non-executive director in TV-am after stepping down as chairman last month.

He resigned as chairman because of the potential conflict of interest arising from him having to dispose of the Saudi stake.

The IBA, which has to be informed of any non-EEC stake exceeding 1 per cent in a commercial TV station, was told of the 15 per cent Saudi interest only three weeks ago.

A spokesman for TV-am said last night: "We welcome the authority's decision and find it very helpful. TV-am is going through a transition stage and you could say that this is the end of the beginning. It gives us an opportunity to move forward positively and confidently, with our house properly in order."

Further comment was declined.

Riots spread to second Soviet Muslim city

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Ethnic unrest sweeping through the two Soviet border republics of Armenia and Azerbaijan has spread to a second big city in Azerbaijan following recent serious rioting in Sumgait, which left several dead and scores wounded.

News of the spread of the disturbances emerged yesterday despite a continuing attempt by the Kremlin to maintain a news blackout on reports of the full extent of the violence.

A Communist Party official in the Azerbaijani city of Kirovabad, with a population of more than 200,000, said that local militia and civilian volunteers were now patrolling the streets after small groups of youths demonstrated on Monday. They were responding to the riots in the Caspian Sea port of Sumgait, 165 miles away to the east, which flared 24 hours earlier.

The official, contacted by telephone, told Western reporters here that the new street patrols had been ordered as a "preventative measure" and claimed that they had been organized at the request of the citizens.

Asked about events there, Mr Gennady Gerasimov, the chief Kremlin spokesman, told a crowded press briefing that he had no specific information "though over there, some things may have happened too".

The disclosure of the spread of unrest has backed diplomatic reports that wild rumours sweeping through the Christian Armenian and Mos-

Geneva - Two more concessions by the Afghan side yesterday brought the peace talks here almost to a close, as the outstanding main issues on the four Geneva instruments have now been agreed. A form of words that will let Pakistan withdraw from its stand that it will not sign until an interim government has been created has yet to be found.

lim Azerbaijani communities have prompted a series of tit-for-tat attacks.

The unnamed Kirovabad official said that the unrest there had been sparked by "rumours" from Sumgait and Nagorno-Karabakh, a predominantly Armenian enclave in Azerbaijan whose transfer from Armenian to Azerbaijan control 65 years

ago is the root cause of the two-week-old ethnic crisis now confronting the Kremlin.

Mr Gerasimov, whose twice weekly briefings for Western newsmen have become noted for their distinct lack of gloss since the ethnic trouble flared, revealed that the party's Central Committee in Moscow had now set up a commission to investigate the Nagorno-Karabakh problem. But he refused to provide any details of its composition or terms of reference.

He cited as one example of the type of theoretical solution which might be looked at by the commission the transfer of the Crimean region of the Soviet Union from membership of the Russian Federation to the control of the Ukraine, another of the country's 15 separate republics.

Referring to the situation in Sumgait, where a military curfew was imposed after rioting, which unofficial reports said resulted in 17 deaths and 70 injuries, Mr Gerasimov said: "The situation in Sumgait is normal now because decisive measures were taken to normalize the situation. The police arrested those guilty."

MPs' anger over storm aid 'profit'

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

The Government was embarrassed yesterday by a report from a Tory-controlled committee of MPs which strongly criticized measures taken to repair damage caused by last October's hurricane.

The Opposition seized on the report by the all-party Agriculture committee which said that the extent of the damage had been greatly underestimated, that the Government's financial assistance was inadequate and that the Treasury stood to profit from the "assistance" it had offered to local authorities.

Dr John Cunningham, the shadow Environment Secretary, said that the effect of the so-called Belwin Scheme, intended to support emergency funding, was that local authorities lost rate support grant for all expenditure up to the product of a penny rate.

He called on Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for

the Environment, to change the arrangements so that there was no way the Treasury could profit from assistance designed to help councils.

Mr Jerry Wiggin, the Tory chairman of the committee, compounded the Government's embarrassment by citing at a press conference figures from a survey of 87 badly-affected councils conducted by the Association of County Councils.

The figures showed that the net cost to the Treasury of its apparent £18.3 million of aid was £8.5 million, with the authorities losing £9.8 million in rate support grant clawback.

The Department of Environment last night insisted that the Government had given "substantial and generous aid".

It was funding 75 per cent of local authority expenditure above the product of a penny rate.

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Botha set to continue reforms

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

President Botha declared yesterday that his Government would not be diverted from its policy of "social, economic and constitutional reform" by the evidence of growing support for the right-wing Conservative Party in Wednesday's two white parliamentary elections in Transvaal.

The Conservatives, who vehemently oppose the Government's modest relaxation of apartheid, hugely increased its majorities in both seats and looks set to do the same in another by-election on March 29 in Randfontein.

Meanwhile, Dr Ivan Toms was sentenced to 630 days' jail yesterday by a Cape Town magistrate for refusing to serve in the South African Defence Force in what is seen as a precedent-setting case.

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Government confirms plans for student loans

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Government has confirmed yesterday's disclosure in *The Times* that personal loans are now being actively considered following the review of student support by Mr Robert Jackson, Minister for Higher Education.

Tory members cheered when the report was raised yesterday at Prime Minister's question-time, when Mr John Wakeham, the Commons leader, who was standing in for Mrs Thatcher, confirmed that proposals would be published around the middle of the year. The Government was considering ways of supplementing grants with loans, he said.

But the proposals will encounter bitter political opposition. Mr Jack

Straw, the shadow education secretary, said that Mr Kenneth Baker, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, was making a "grave political error".

Mr Neil Kinnock later attacked the plans as a "mortgage on knowledge". The Labour leader said they inhibited

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people from going on to higher education and it was almost impossible to get them paid back.

Labour MPs demanded a statement from Mr Baker at the start of yesterday's committee sitting on the Education Reform Bill. Mr Baker denied that the Government had "inspired" yesterday's report in *The*

Times, but he did not deny it and said that no final decisions had been reached.

He said the *Times* report was "speculative". But as reported yesterday Mr Jackson's proposals, which may be opposed by the Treasury and could face amendment in Cabinet, are for personal loans of up to £1,000 a year for students, to be paid back at low interest rates over 10 years.

Student grants would be cut by about £100 but they would lose their entitlement to housing benefit, put by government sources at about £370 on average per student.

Mr Straw said yesterday after the committee sitting: "Mr Baker has virtually confirmed by his failure to deny *The Times* disclosure. It is clear

from what has been disclosed about Mr Jackson's review that this is not about widening access to higher education but about making cuts in public expenditure through the removal of housing benefit and cutting grants. It is nonsense to suggest such a system could widen access when it would manifestly catch the most needy students."

May cost more: The Government's plans may cost the taxpayer more or as much as full grants in the long run, the National Union of Students said yesterday (Sarah Thompson writes). While present grants will be slashed by £100, all students may apply for a loan of up to £1,000, repayable over ten years: if the graduate becomes unemployed the repayments are to be frozen.

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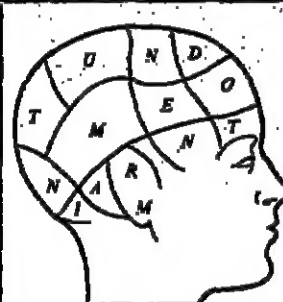
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● There is still £88,000 to be won in today's Portfolio Accumulator, plus the £4,000 daily prize. (Yesterday's winners, page 3).

TOURNAMENT OF THE MIND



● Today *The Times* Tournament of the Mind reaches half-way point, with another 10 days to go. At the end of the competition the top 100 individual scorers and the top schools will be invited to join the finals, spread over one week. For today's round, turn to page 12.

Hooligan warning

Fears that English and Dutch football supporters are preparing for a violent confrontation at this year's European Championship were expressed yesterday at the presentation of a report on football hooliganism by a Belgian university professor.

"When they meet, they will decide once and for all who is the strongest," Professor Lode Walgrave, of the Catholic University of Louvain, said.

Meanwhile, the cost of policing British football supporters inside the stadiums has risen by 16 per cent in one year to £3.65 million.

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Drug firm says vast majority of Opren claims unfounded

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Lilly Industries, manufacturers of Opren, the anti-arthritis drug, defended its actions for the first time in public yesterday, asserting that Opren was not responsible for the cause of injuries in the "vast majority" of claims.

In a strongly worded statement issued to 2,300 Lilly employees, the drug company also says it believes that if it took to court this "vast majority of cases" where no causal link was identified, it would win.

The public has been "misled by certain press reports" into believing that Opren was the unquestionable cause of various injuries claimed.

A review by the company has shown that "little or no objective medical evidence has been shown to support such claims."

"In the vast majority of Opren cases, particularly those involving persistent photosensitivity, no objective medical evidence appeared to establish Opren as the cause of injury being claimed against the company."

The company, whose settlement offer has been accepted by 98 per cent of the 1,350 claimants, said that in many cases, patients' records show that they had taken other drugs which would account for their persisting photosensitive reactions.

In other cases their skin

conditions were apparent before they took Opren or only occurred long after they stopped using the drug, the company says. Some patients, it says, developed skin conditions clearly not associated with Opren or any other drug.

The company had made its global settlement offer (believed to be about £2.5 million), in line with amounts suggested by the claimants' own lawyers, including cases where medical evidence did not support a link with Opren, to avoid the "extensive time and significant cost of going to trial."

There was also the attendant publicity, which Mr Richard Bailey, managing director of Lilly Industries (a UK subsidiary of the parent company, Eli Lilly, in Indianapolis), said yesterday was "not pleasant."

Now that the settlement was all but concluded, he said the company, which has kept a self-imposed silence throughout the offer negotiations, thought it was now time for it to give its side of what had become the "Opren myth."

Referring to the campaign by Mr David Mason and Mr Ralph Nader in the United States, he added that there had been threats by a few to encourage a boycott of Lilly products. "We regard these pressures as totally improper."

In its statement, which the

company is issuing to all doctors, the company says that the "overwhelming majority of the case records fell into two groups."

One extremely large group involved side-effects warned about by the drug company, which could therefore not be the basis of claims.

A second and "very large" group alleged persistent photosensitivity. "We believe the weight of scientific evidence demonstrates that these problems were not caused by the drug."

Mr Bailey said yesterday he was not talking about hipatoneal syndrome, which "in rare cases did occur," nor some of the deaths, where "in some cases" it might be possible for claimants to demonstrate that the death was in some way linked with Opren, he said.

The company goes on to dismiss comparisons between Opren and drugs such as thalidomide or Eraldin as "dramatically misleading."

Last night, Mr Des Wilson, chairman of Citizen Action, the group which has backed the fight for compensation by the Opren claimants, said: "I find it incomprehensible that a company of such wealth continues to try to justify itself when, irrespective of the level of proof, it is clear that a vast number of people, all of whom took Opren, have suffered side-effects."

Misconduct hearing

Doctor 'set up' by detectives

A doctor caught having sexual intercourse in his surgery by private detectives yesterday described his adulterous relationship with the woman - "Mrs C" - and insisted she would not take no for an answer.

Dr John Gerald Powell said he first met Mrs C in the early 1970s when she was in her thirties. She and her husband lived virtually next door, he told the General Medical Council's professional conduct committee.

His sexual relationship with her started in the mid-1970s, but although she was registered at the practice, he did not regard her as one of his own patients, he said.

He admitted having sexual intercourse with a patient, and Professor Sir Herbert Duthie, chairman of the committee, said the case was proved.

The hearing continued on two other charges of allegedly abusing his professional position by behaving indecently towards two female patients while working at Warwick Hospital last year.

Dr Powell, registered at Dodd Avenue, Myton Grange, Warwick, is also accused of serious professional misconduct.

He said yesterday that he was divorced in 1980 and remarried the same year, when his relationship with Mrs C ceased.

But that changed five years later when she began arriving at his surgery. Dr Powell said he tried to rebuff her. She visited the surgery once a month, he said. "I said 'For God's sake, leave me alone, I'm happily married.'"

He agreed with his defence

lawyer that he was "set up and trapped" in May 1986 by private investigators who found the couple having sexual intercourse on the surgery floor.

The next day Dr Powell's duodenal ulcer burst, giving him an excuse to resign on health grounds.

Mr Langdale said the two other charges related to Dr Powell's employment as a clinical assistant in dermatology at Warwick and Warrford Hospitals in 1987.

He allegedly pulled down the clothing of a patient, and stared at her.

Dr Powell, aged 63, said he pulled down the patient's clothes to see the extent of her skin disease. He denied having any sexual motive.

The hearing continues.

Education for under-fives

Nursery classes 'a lottery'

Nursery education in Britain is a lottery and lags far behind the rest of Europe, according to a survey published yesterday.

Research by the National Children's Bureau shows nursery care for children under five varies wildly from area to area and is often fragmented and confusing.

Mrs Gillian Pugh, the report's author, who is head of the under-fives unit at the bureau, said her survey of local authorities made a mockery of government pledges in the 1970s; she called for higher government priority for nursery education.

Although successive governments have supported the principle of nursery education, there is no statutory obligation on local authorities to provide it.

In 1972, Mrs Thatcher, then Secretary of State for Education, said the Government should aim at 90 per cent provision of nursery education for four-year-olds and 50 per cent for three-year-olds. The survey shows average provision for three and four-year-olds of only 22 per cent.

About 85 per cent of children aged three and four have some kind of pre-school provision but most of it is part-

time and some is in primary school classes which might not be suitably staffed for younger children.

The chances of a mother finding full nursery education for her under-fives depends on where she lives; only 5 per cent of under-fives in Britain receive day care.

The best provision the survey found was in the London borough of Hounslow, where 69 per cent of children under five had places in nursery schools and classes. The worst was in Gloucestershire (no provision) and Wiltshire (1 per cent).

Fight against reading tax

By Andrew Morgan

Publishing and library groups yesterday added momentum to the campaign opposing European Commission proposals to impose value-added tax on books, newspapers and magazines in Britain.

The Hands Off Reading Campaign has been launched with the backing of industry, education authorities and universities to oppose the plan to harmonize VAT levels which the EEC says is necessary to end unfair trading advantages. Reading matter is zero-rated in this country.

The campaign says a tax on the written word would damage efforts to improve school standards in Britain. About 46 per cent of book sales in Britain are for educational use.

Lord Marsh, chairman of the Newspaper Publishers Association, said that only a few books and newspapers crossed national borders, largely through the language barrier, and so trade advantages were "already minimized."

At present, only the UK and Portugal have a zero-rating on books, newspapers and magazines. Denmark has zero VAT on newspapers and periodicals, but charges 22 per cent on books, while Ireland has zero rating on books but 25 per cent on periodicals and 10 per cent on newspapers.

After the UK and Portugal, the lowest rates are in Italy (two per cent on books and

periodicals, zero on newspapers) and Greece (three per cent across the board), while West Germany operates seven per cent VAT in each category. The EEC proposes a reduced rate band of 4 to 9 per cent, but the campaign is seeking a band of 0 to 6 per cent.

The Library Association said that school and public libraries would be able to recover any imposed VAT, unlike universities, but the costs in recouping the tax would be high. Libraries would suffer as book prices rose.

Mr John Hyams, president of the Booksellers' Association, said a drop in sales could force some bookshops to close.

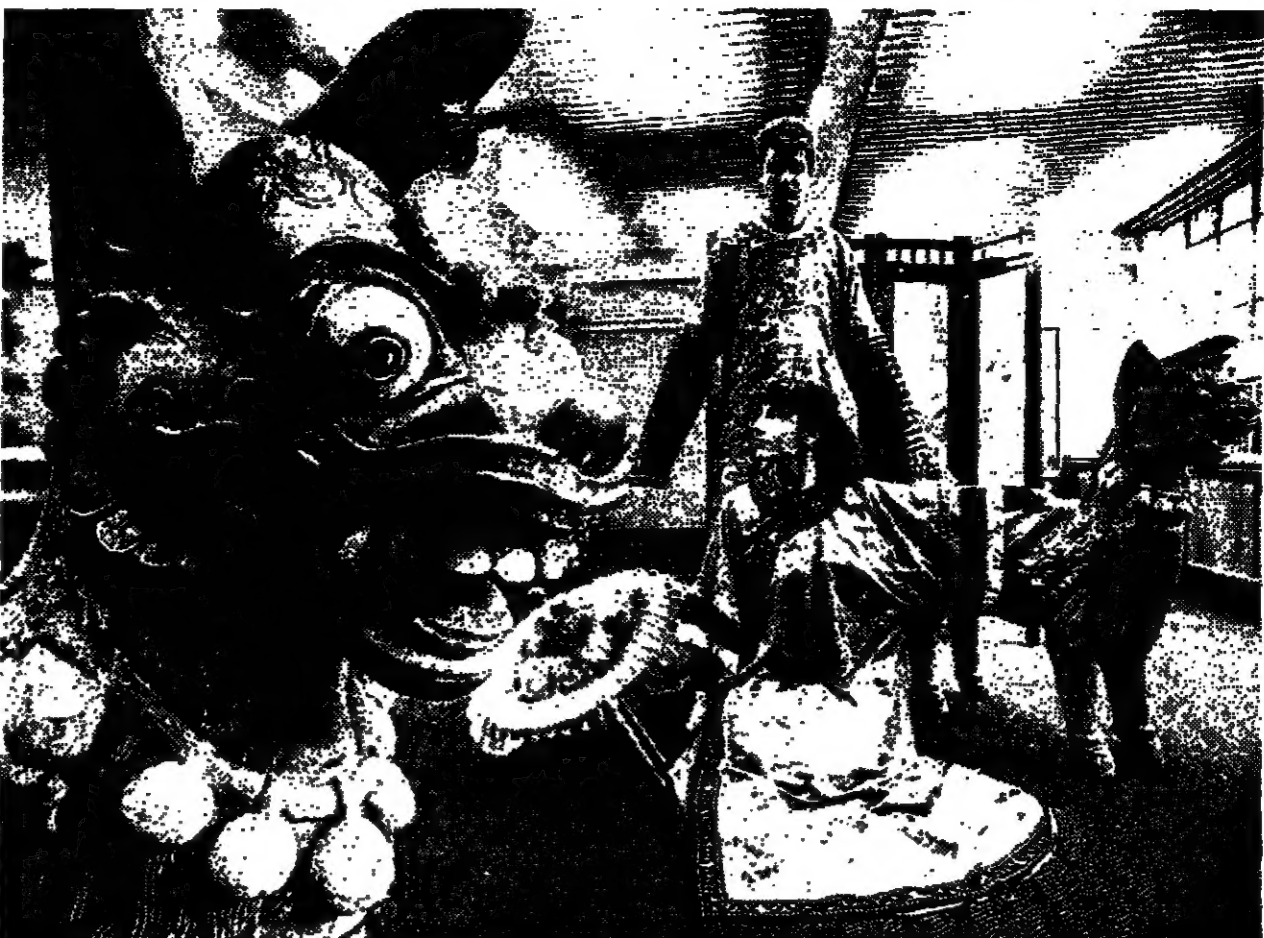
biased resort descriptions, with photographs showing the wrong beaches and hotels.

"Tour operators say their representatives check and recheck facilities regularly. But we still found brochures repeating blatant errors from hotel promotional leaflets."

Holiday Which? advises visitors to check background information, using a selection of guidebooks to compare with brochure descriptions.

In the same issue, Holiday Which? deplores the decision not to make smoke hoods compulsory on British aircraft. It claims the devices can save vital minutes in burning aircraft.

Costumes of an empire for sale



Phillips is offering 28 Chinese costumes used in Bernardo Bertolucci's film *The Last Emperor* for sale on March 31.

They are original nineteenth-century clothes once worn by courtiers, such as the man's brown silk Chinese dragon robe replete with cosmic decoration, modelled above, and the green silk robe with butterflies and flowers. The costumes to be sold were worn by some of the main characters in the film. Miss Anne-Marie Benson, of Phillips, said: "When they first started planning the

film two years ago, the producers came and bought a number from us". Estimates for the costumes, some of which show signs of wear and tear from filming, are from £100 to £500.

(Photograph: John Rogers)

Exports of art and antiques top £1bn

SALE ROOM

By Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

British exports of art and antiques passed the £1 billion mark last year, an increase of 35 per cent over the previous year's figures, the Department of Trade and Industry says. Of that total, £821 million was for fine art, paintings, sculpture and prints, and £335.6 million for antiques.

Import figures also rose, by 27 per cent to £935 million. Apart from the obvious heretofore implication of exports exceeding imports by £215 million, the figures confirm London as the honey pot to which the world market is attracted.

Not surprisingly, the United States was Britain's most active customer, importing £424.4 million worth of art and antiques from this country, or one third of all our exports, while exporting goods worth £253.1 million to Britain.

Notable new trends included the strong emergence of Japanese buyers, who spent about five times more on paintings in Britain last year than they did in 1986.

The export of antiques from Britain to The Netherlands were up by 77 per cent and to Belgium by 30 per cent.

There is proof of more British buying abroad, with £100 million spent on art and antiques in France, an increase of 75 per cent. Imports of antiques from the Irish Republic have risen by 32 per cent, possibly because the new rate of value-added tax on them has chased such goods to Britain.

The statistics, unravelled by the *Antiques Trade Gazette*, cover antiques and paintings over the age of 100 years. British and Irish traditionalist and modernist paintings sold well at Christie's in London yesterday, achieving a total of £521,000. But a quarter of the goods were bought in.

The top price of £187,000 was paid for an unusual painting of the Venetian church of Santa Maria della Salute by John Singer Sargent.

Rather than depicting it from a distance as most artists

do, he paints it close-up, from an angle, with the glimpse of a boat in the foreground. It sold to the London dealer Williams and Son against an estimate of up to £120,000.

A work by Dorothea Sharp, who specialized in painting children at play, "Children and striped Rug in a Field", sold for £23,100 against an estimate of £10,000 to £15,000, to the dealer David Messum. He also spent £71,500 (estimate £25,000 to £35,000) on Wilfred Gabriel de Glehn's painting, coyly called "Les Trois Princesses" but actually showing three perfectly ordinary young women lying in a summer garden, a pink parasol at their side.

Casualties included William Orpen's portrait of a pompous-looking little girl, Miss Annie Harnsworth, which did not get beyond £20,000, and a painting by Dorothea Sharp called "Summer Holidays", a beach scene

with children playing. Christopher Weston, of Phillips the auctioneers, announced yesterday that the company has secured a 5 per cent stake in Christie's International PLC. He said his company had been offered a block of ordinary shares; with shares owned by himself and his wife, it now had a "strategic stake".

Explaining how he raised the money, he said: "The company has a good credit rating, and if we want something we get it. I believe that Phillips is now one of the most significant shareholders in Christie's and we intend to keep our options open."

The moves come in the wake of speculation about the future of Christie's, whose share prices have been soaring for some months.

There has been some sniping in the art market about Mr Weston's motives, the prospect of Phillips taking over the more upmarket organization being likened to a sprat swallowing a mackerel. The original Mr Phillips was for 13 years the sales clerk of the original Mr Christie's, breaking away to set up on his own in 1796.

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator Winners both plan holidays

Two winners share the £4,000 Portfolio daily prize and both plan to spend their windfalls on family holidays.

Mrs Ann Yond, of Princes Avenue, Woodford Green, Essex, said she had been playing the competition since it started and was delighted with her win.

"My husband Brian, a chartered accountant, and I have three grown up children and apart from buying a few things for the home I think we might have a holiday", she said.

Mr Ernest Milburn, aged 65, a retired bank official, of Firs Hamlet, West Mersea, Colchester, Essex, said he was thinking of a holiday for his wife and himself.

Peer loses battle of the stream

Lord Hanson, chairman of the Hanson Trust, which controls companies throughout the world, has lost a battle over a trout stream in his village.

A neighbour, Mr David Allen, a game dealer, upset Lord Hanson when he created two ponds in the village of Winterbourne, near Newbury, Berkshire.

Lord Hanson, aged 66, who has a personal fortune of £95 million, said the ponds would lower the level of the stream which he relies on to water his horses.

He and another neighbour, Mr Hugh Doel, the head of a dry-cleaning firm, won the support of Newbury District Council which ordered Mr Allen to fill the ponds in.

Mr Allen was later given permission after submitting revised plans, saying the ponds would form a wildlife haven for the public to visit and that the stream would be unaffected.

Lord Hanson and Mr Doel retaliated with a plan to create four wildlife lakes by flooding the valley between their cottages.

But the council has rejected their plan. The Thames Water Authority said Lord Hanson's proposal to dam the village stream would stop fish migrating and the water could be polluted.

Councillors also said the lakes would appear as "a highly unnatural, alien feature" in an area of outstanding beauty.

Lord Hanson and Mr Doel are expected to appeal.



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Slanted holiday brochures attacked

Some holiday brochure descriptions are so slanted "you wouldn't recognize the resort", the Consumers' Association said yesterday.

The latest issue of the association's magazine, *Holiday Which?* found telling inaccuracies in brochures on the Portuguese Algarve.

In one instance, a brochure said new apartments with a swimming pool, playground and reception would be ready in April last year. When *Holiday Which?* visited the site last October, only the pool was complete.

Another brochure proclaimed a hotel was "virtually on the excellent sandy beach" but omitted to mention a large,

ugly building between it and the sands. Another told of "stunning apartments to the highest modern standards", but *Holiday Which?* found cheap wooden furniture and surfaces peeling off the kitchen fittings.

Holiday Which? studied the 1987 brochures of 27 leading tour operators, visiting 16 hotels in six resorts. It found Horizon offered the worst brochures for resorts, but its hotel descriptions were good. Flair, Olympic and Sol's descriptions of hotels were criticized. Overall, the best brochures were from Martyn, Best, Thomson and Thomas Cook.

The association said it was surprised at the high level of mistakes and badly

biased resort descriptions, with photographs showing the wrong beaches and hotels.

"Tour operators say their representatives check and recheck facilities regularly. But we still found brochures repeating blatant errors from hotel promotional leaflets."

Holiday Which? advises visitors to check background information, using a selection of guidebooks to compare with brochure descriptions.

In the same issue, *Holiday Which?* deplores the decision not to make smoke hoods compulsory on British aircraft. It claims the devices can save vital minutes in burning aircraft.

Falkland Islands excercise stories 'exaggerated'

Stories about the British exercise, Fire Focus, off the Falkland Islands, had been enormously exaggerated, Mr Ian Stewart, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, said.

The exercise would involve the movement of one battle group and a small number of aircraft, he said, during the annual debate on the Royal Navy. Fewer than 1,000 men were involved.

Mr Martin O'Neill, an Opposition spokesman on defence and disarmament, said that the small-scale exercise that MPs had heard about today was very different from the first full-scale reinforcement exercise described so falsely in the RAF debate only a few weeks ago.

The somewhat gung-ho approach taken by the minister then and his retraction today would not do anything to quieten anxieties that the Ministry of Defence was trying to blow up what was quite a modest exercise.

It was evidence of the bellicosity of this Government that the most puny little exercise was blown up by the tin-pot generals among Conservative MPs who took every opportunity to preen and inflate themselves.

Admittedly the Secretary of State for Defence did not need a helmet, as his predecessor (Mr Michael Heseltine) had. Nevertheless, the Government took every opportunity to blow up the significance of every military action, very often in a way that was destabilising.

Opening the debate, Mr Stewart said that after allowing for inflation, defence spending was now 20 per cent higher than in 1979.

This additional expenditure was reflected in the company of a ship building programme which the present Government had followed. During the past eight years, 61 ships had been ordered for the Royal Navy with a cost at current prices of more than £6 billion.

ROYAL NAVY

This year, four more Type 22 frigates were due to be accepted from their builders, the first of which, HMS Cornwall, had joined the fleet two weeks ago.

The training ship, RFA Argus, had today been accepted from the builders, leaving 26 major ships and submarines on order with a value of about £4.5 billion.

The submarine was likely to pose the greatest threat to Britain's reinforcements and supply routes. "It is in this connection that the massive expansion and modernization of the Soviet submarine fleet was such a threat to the West."

"I do not believe that the Soviet Union has any current intention of attacking Nato by land or sea but, with their history of sudden changes in policy and leadership, we can afford to take no risks."

The acid test of the Royal Navy's ability to perform its role effectively was not simply ship numbers but its overall capability.

There had been suggestions recently that there were not enough operational destroyers and frigates and that few of them would be available for the defence of the waters around the United Kingdom, but the real picture was very different.

Of course some British ships were engaged in tasks out of area, but they could be recalled in an emergency. At present there were 49 destroyers and frigates in the fleet, of which 43 were available for operational deployment immediately or within a short period.

In addition to the nine frigates on order, the Government had now received and was assessing tenders for up to four more of the highly capable Type 23 frigates.

History, including quite recent history, was full of illustrations of the usefulness and flexibility of seapower. The

Royal Navy's Armilla Patrol in the Gulf was just the latest example.

The patrol had continued to carry out its task in a quiet but very effective way.

In 1987, it had accompanied 405 merchant ship movements through the Straits of Hormuz. No ship eligible for Royal Navy protection had been attacked while in the vicinity of the patrol. That was a record of which the navy could be justly proud.

The four Royal Navy mine counter-measure vessels had successfully disposed of 10 mines in its support of the Armilla Patrol. That was a big contribution to safety of navigation for all shipping in the Gulf.

"Free aerogramme letters will in future be provided to all those serving in our ships in the Gulf area and to their families at home. I have asked the naval staff to make arrangements to introduce this service as soon as possible and they expect to be able to do so within the next few weeks."

The Royal Navy would be making a group deployment later in the year to the Far East and Australia. The task group was set to leave the United Kingdom in June and the focal point of the deployment would be the Fleet Review in Sydney early in October.

The task group would consist of HMS Ark Royal, as flagship, with HMS Edinburgh, HMS Sirius, and RFA's Fort, Grange, Olwen and Orangerie. The previous Sirius had led the original First Fleet 200 years earlier, so it was fitting that her namesake should represent the navy at the bicentennial celebrations.

Exercise Fire Focus, to take place in the Falkland Islands later this month, would provide the first opportunity to exercise the procedure for reinforcement from 700,000 pensioner households.

Completion of the airfield and development of contingency plans for rapid reinforcement of the Falkland Islands had meant a halving of the size of the resident garrison.

Runcie the pig breeder praised

During exchanges about the pig industry, Mr Michael Allison, who normally answers questions on behalf of the Church Commissioners, reminded the House that MCA stood for Monetary Compensation Accounts, not for Ministers' Criticism of Archbishops (laughter).

He added that the Archbishop of Canterbury was one of a great number of pig producers and owners who was a great deal more interested in the pig meat implications of MCAs.

Mr Donald Thompson, Parliamentary Secretary, Agriculture, replied: I am sure that if he set that to music he would have a hit in every church in the country next week (laughter). Ministers were doing all they could to eliminate MCAs on pig meat.

Mr Dale Campbell-Savours (Wokingham, Lab) said that members of the Church of England Synod had lost confidence in Mr John Gummer, Minister of State, Agriculture, because of his savage attacks on the clergy and his "bishop bashing".



Mr Michael Allison, who came to the defence of Archbishop Runcie, "one of the country's pig producers"

Government 'punishing the prudent'

Kinnock onslaught on benefits

PRIME MINISTER

70,000 families were caught in a trap in which they were worse off for every pound they earned.

In cash terms the vast majority, 88 per cent of those receiving supplementary benefit, would do better or be unchanged this April.

Low-income working families would get £200 million more in extra resources as a result of the changes.

Mr Kinnock said that he was talking about pensioners who would lose 85p for every £1 they got.

What did Mr Wakeham say to

pensioners who came to his constituency surgery, getting the state pension at the basic rate with a small occupational pension and about £6,000 in savings? What did he answer when they asked why they were losing their housing benefit?

Mr Wakeham said that he did not know what Mr Kinnock did. The first thing I do is check what they are entitled to and see that they get it and that is very important.

Then he would explain to them that at the moment one household in three got housing benefit.

"I do not believe that the rest of the country should be paying that kind of housing benefit to one household in three" (Opposition interruptions). There-

fore, the Government was right to redistribute the money to those in greatest need.

Mr Kinnock: Redistribution is all very well. How does he justify taking away money from those who are near-poor, not very well off in any circumstances, in order to lift those who are very poor just a marginal amount?

Mr Wakeham said that Mr Kinnock made the mistake of saying that the Government was taking money away.

"We are dealing with taxpayers' money and we are redistributing it so that those who are worst off in our society get more."

MPs find committee defender

House of Commons select committees are pompous, self-important and possessed of a spurious expertise, justifying taking away money from those who are near-poor, not very well off in any circumstances, in order to lift those who are very poor just a marginal amount?

Mr Kinnock said that his first objective is self-promotion and their first function is to split the difference between the Government and Opposition in order to embarrass the elected Government.

It was time to rid Parliament of these turbulent committees, he said.

Mr John Wakeham, Leader of the House, said that, from time to time, the Government had its difficulties with select committees. "But I cannot share his description of the work of the select committees, much of which is very valuable."

Inner-city initiative

The Government will not be publishing a White Paper on the inner cities as part of an initiative to be launched by Mrs Margaret Thatcher next week, Mr John Wakeham, the Leader of the House, said during business questions.

He told Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, that the Prime Minister was going to take part in a press conference. He would see what could be done about arranging a Commons debate on the issue in due course.

Mr Kinnock said that any decisions should be announced in the Commons, rather than in a television studio, and that MPs should have the chance to debate them, rather than reading about them in a propaganda brochure.

Offices for the regions

Government policy is to site any new government work in the regions as far as possible, Mr John Wakeham, the Leader of the Commons, said at question time.

Mr James Cran (Beverley, C) asked for confirmation that the Government would continue to relocate offices outside London and the South-east, consistent with costs and efficiency.

London weighting cost the taxpayer £147 million a year and the office costs for the 93 buildings occupied by the Government were £287 million.

Mr Wakeham said that the Government had promised in 1979 to send 5,900 Civil Service jobs to the regions and that objective had been largely met. Four out of five civil servants already worked out of Greater London.

Coal mining 'is at risk of destruction'

Part of the following report of a Commons debate on Welsh affairs appeared in later editions yesterday.

A warning that the Government might, by the way it was privatizing electricity, unleash forces that could destroy the coal industry for ever and make Britain totally dependent on imported coal was given by Sir Anthony Meyer (Clwyd North West, C).

He was speaking on Wednesday in the debate, opened by Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Wales, who said that the economic situation in Wales was one of considerable buoyancy.

Last week, in newspapers in Swansea, job advertising was 51 per cent up on a year ago and in North Wales the increase was 101 per cent.

Applications for regional development grants for January and February were up from 303 in 1986 to 370 this year. The Welsh Development Agency had embarked on a three-year factory building programme with £30 million investment in new factories. Money for home improvements was to be raised

to £101 million next year, an increase of 19 per cent.

Inward investment in Wales was already higher than any other region.

A more active drive was planned to get the Welsh economy involved in exports, where its record was not good. The Government would be conducting a firm-by-firm campaign of briefing and information. The aim was to make Wales far more oriented to the European market.

Financial services industries would be encouraged to come to Wales. The Government hoped to attract overseas banking houses and many of the financial services of the South-west to take an interest in Wales.

Mr Alan Williams, chief Opposition spokesman on Wales, said that under this Administration, Wales had been bled and so financially weakened that it could solve its problems only with more public expenditure.

"We want a return to a prosperous Wales, but we also want the return of a caring society. Neither is possible under this Government."

Sir Raymond Gower (Vale of

WALES



Sir Anthony Meyer: Dependence on imported coal

Glamorgan, C) said that the most painful process had been the decline of basic industries. Undoubtedly, there were still some troubles, but he believed the worst was over.

Mr Brynmor John (Ponty-

pridd, Lab) said that the attitude of British Coal towards its responsibility when pits were closed was uncaring. "Not only do they not spend money, but they do not care about the sort of industries which come into the sites to take their place."

Sir Anthony Meyer said that the more he listened to arguments over the poll tax, the fewer advantages he saw. The more defects he could see in it.

The approach to electricity privatization had been wrong. It might in the short term bring lower electricity tariffs, but he was concerned about its effect on the coal industry.

"I support the Government's aim of wanting to reduce the nation's dependence on the coal industry, given the repeated attempts by Mr Arthur Scargill to impose his will on the elected Government."

"It is one thing to reduce dependency on coal. It is quite another - and a very dangerous thing - to unleash forces that could destroy the coal industry in this country for ever and make us totally dependent on imported coal."

If there were two competing

groups in energy generation, they would be under irresistible pressure to find the cheapest source of energy in the short term. That would mean imported coal and that, in turn, would mean pit closures.

Mr Donald Coleman (Neath, Lab) said that nobody could be unhappy when they heard of improvements being made in the economy in Wales, but they were not satisfied with the pace of the improvements.

Mr Richard Llewellyn, Liberal spokesman on Wales, called for real jobs, especially for males, in Wales.

Mr Roy Hughes, an Opposition spokesman on Wales, said that Government proposals to break up the electricity industry could deal a devastating blow to the British coal industry.

Mr Wyn Roberts, Minister of State, Welsh Office, said that Wales was in an "upbeat" mood and the lamentations of the Jeremiahs on the Opposition benches were out of tune with the feelings of most people in Wales.

The debate concluded with-

Loans under fire

A switch from grants to loans for students would be unacceptable, Mr Richard Llewellyn (Brocan and Radnor, L) said during Prime Minister's questions in the Commons.

He referred to the report that day in The Times and said that under the American system a quarter of the civil servants on Capitol Hill had not repaid loans after 20 years. It would be better to increase student loans

by 20 per cent to keep pace with inflation.

Mr John Wakeham, Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the Commons, answering in the absence of the Prime Minister, disagreed. The Government had said that it was reviewing student grants and considering a way of supplementing them with loans. "We will publish our proposals when the review is complete."

Parliament next week

The main business in the House of Commons next day, Monday, will be: Debate on the privatization of the electricity supply industry.

Tuesday: Debates on the storm damage recovery scheme and on assistance to the coal industry.

Wednesday: Local Government Bill, consideration of Lords amendments.

Thursday: Proceedings on Consolidated Fund (No 3) Bill with debates on a variety of topics.

Friday: Private member's motion on the engineering industry.

The main business in the House of Lords will be:

Monday: Employment Bill, committee, first day; Betting, Gaming and Lotteries (Amendment) Bill, committee.

Tuesday: Employment Bill, committee, second day.

Wednesday: Debate on the role of energy generation.

Thursday: Copyrights, Designs and Patents Bill, report, fourth day.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Debate on private member's motion on Government's enterprise initiative.

Lords (11): Immigration Bill, second reading.

Derby's 'cultural vandals' attacked

A backbench Conservative MP accused Derbyshire County Council of "cultural vandalism" after reports that the county had forced a Chesterfield school to alter its 400-year-old Latin motto to "something considered more relevant".

The accusation came from Mr Michael Stern (Bristol North West, C) during Prime Minister's questions, which were being answered by Mr John Wakeham, Leader of the House, because of Mrs Thatcher's absence in Brussels.

Mr Stern asked Mr Wakeham if he intended to persuade the Royal Air Force to change its motto, *Per ardua ad astra*, or to approach the College of Heralds over such out-of-date mottoes as

Honi soit qui mal y pense and to replace them with something considered more attractive. "Derbyshire Supports Nuclear Free Zones" (This has been reported as being the school's new motto, to replace *Non quo sed quomodo* - Not wither, but in what manner.)

Mr Wakeham said that he appreciated Mr Stern's concern about these reports. "Sadly, we have come to the point where nothing that is done by Derbyshire County Council can cause much surprise."

The Government's proposals for the reform of local government finance and the introduction of the community charge would help.

Cemetery sale to be studied

The district auditor is investigating the sale by Westminster City Council of three cemeteries for 15p.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, had called for a statement by the Secretary of State for the Environment (Mr Nicholas Ridley) on Government policy towards local authorities who followed the scandalous practice of selling off publicly owned cemeteries for minute prices.

Mr Wakeham said: "The Government considers this to be a matter between the council, its ratepayers and the district auditor."

Rebel Tories fail on guns amendment

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Rebel Tories failed yesterday by the narrowest of margins to win the Government's post-Hungerford firearms legislation.

Thanks to the absence of one Tory rebel and the support of most Labour MPs, the Government beat off by two votes an amendment by the Tory committee that would have excluded all self-loading rifles, including the Kalashnikov, used by Michael Ryan in Hungerford, from the list of weapons to be prohibited.

The rebels agree that private ownership of the Kalashnikov and other paramilitary rifles should be prohibited, but say the comprehensive ban on all self-loading rifles will unjustifi-

ably deprive up to 20,000 responsible shooters of their weapons, sport and gamekeepers in their work.

They believe the Bill is a "kneejerk" reaction to Hungerford and say no amount of legislation will stop individuals from occasionally going berserk.

They were enraged yesterday by the refusal of Mr Douglas Hogg, the Home Office minister, to make any concessions. They forced a vote, knowing that if they won Mr Hogg would have to return with a compromise solution.

Mr Hogg, in the course of an impassioned debate, acknowledged that the cause in question would deprive some shooters of their sport, but claimed that self-

loading rifles were "extremely lethal weapons" and that in the wake of Hungerford public opinion demanded firm action.

He said compromise involving exclusion from the Bill of low-capacity self-loading rifles was impossible because every rifle now on the market had detachable or variable cartridges. He said that the use of these rifles was less than suggested, and that they were not necessary for culling deer or killing vermin.

However, the rebels, led by Mr Henry Bellingham and including Mr Jerry Wiggin, chairman of the all-party agriculture committee, Sir Eldon Griffiths, parliamentary adviser to the Police Federation, and Sir

Hector Monro, claimed later to have won the argument and predicted that they could force a re-run of the vote at a later stage of the Bill's consideration in committee.

Just how finely the committee is balanced was demonstrated minutes after the critical vote when the rebels won by eight votes to seven another amendment excluding from the scope of the bill all self-loading rifles made before 1939.

They have already forced the Government to announce that it will compensate those whose guns are to be banned by refusing to let the committee begin its work without a prior commitment.

They are now planning to force votes on a series of tactical amendments.

NHS committee furious

By Our Political Reporter

The Tory-controlled Commons social services committee, which on Tuesday published a report demanding huge extra resources for the National Health Service, has served notice on the Government that it expects that report to be treated with respect and seriousness.

The committee, six of whose eleven members are Conservatives, was infuriated by what it saw as the swift, cavalier and misleading dismissal by the Secretary of State for Social Services, Mr John Birt, of a report whose contents and pre-budget timing was undoubtedly embarrassing for the Government.

Yesterday, with the unanimous support of his colleagues, Mr Frank Field, the chairman, sent an irate letter to Mr Moore, lamenting his alleged misrepresentation of what they had said in the report and disowning his charge that they were asking

for a "blank cheque" or for the Government to "throw an arbitrary £1 billion at the health service now".

Mr Moore, who is now drafting a reply to the letter, is to appear before the committee on March 23 and can expect fierce interrogation.

The committee had called for the injection of £1 billion over the next two years to make up for underfunding since 1981 that its advisers calculated to be nearly £2 billion. It had said that the money should be allocated to information technology, alleviating the maintenance backlog, replacing equipment, and other costly and specific purposes designed to bring the NHS "back up to scratch".

It had also called for the immediate injection of £95 million, the amount by which the Government itself had apparently admitted the health service was underfunded because of

pay and price inflation in the coming year.

The committee had said that unless the Government acted on its recommendations the alternative was inevitable, serious cuts in services in the coming year.

However, it said in the report: "We are not naive enough to believe that money is the only solution, nor that the Government will write the NHS a blank cheque."

It also made clear there had to be drastically improved monitoring of performance and efficiency, with MPs astonished that no one knew the cost of operations or courses of treatment, how many qualified nurses were leaving the service, or how many beds and wards were closed at any one time.

In his letter, yesterday, Mr Field charged that Mr Moore had chosen to reject the report "out of hand".

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My fifth is in **BOOT**, but not in **LACE**
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MPs demand help for hurricane-hit farmers

Treasury profiting from storm aid, says committee

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

The Government has severely underestimated the damage caused by October's hurricane and must drastically revise the level of aid offered to farmers, landowners and local authorities, a Tory-controlled committee of MPs said yesterday.

Across the South-east, people were still suffering appalling consequences of the storms and would continue to do so for several years, the all-party agriculture select committee said in a unanimous report.

Mr Jerry Wiggin, the committee's Tory chairman, described the hurricane as "the largest single natural disaster ever to hit this country", and said it was "simply unacceptable" to delay any longer before taking serious action to clear up the mess.

The committee's most radical demand is for a government transport subsidy to move vast quantities of fallen timber from the worst-hit areas to other parts of the country.

It said the timber would soon become unusable and the glut was causing prices to tumble, compounding the massive clearance task faced by hard-hit private landowners.

The swiftly produced report, to be debated in the Commons next week, also condemns the refusal of Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, to reconsider his support for local authorities under the so-called Bellwin Scheme.

The effect of the scheme, intended to support emergency funding, was that councils lost government rate support grant for all expenditure up to the product of a penny rate, so that the Treasury stood to profit substantially from its "assistance" to them.

That, the committee said, was "quite unacceptable" and greatly hindered councils' ability to fund emergency work. Mr Wiggin disclosed that 87 local authorities badly affected by the storm had so far spent £98.6 million on relief work, and 24 expected to lose more in grant than they received in aid. The ostensible government contribution of £18.3 million would in fact be about £8.5 million.

While the committee praised the Government's immediate response to the storms, it also demanded substantially increased financial assistance over an extended period for farmers,

landowners and horticulturalists, describing some of the aid offered as "derisory".

It said the March 31 deadline for claims from farmers under the Storm Damage Recovery Scheme was unrealistic and should be extended, and that the £1 million allocated for repairing environmental damage was "entirely inadequate".

Glasshouse owners had been particularly badly affected because the Government argued that it could not discriminate against those who had insured their properties by helping those who had not. Even the insured were losing income while damage was repaired.

The MPs also drew attention to the plight of hop-growers, soft-fruit growers and vineyard owners, who were left "entirely unsupported when orchard farmers were being compensated for each tree that had been damaged".

Private woodland owners had been left with woods virtually impenetrable and faced a formidable and costly task of clearing them. To add to their troubles, pine and beechwood became unsaleable if left on the ground for more than six months.

Simultaneously, prices had slumped 30 per cent because of the wood glut.

The emergency Windblow Action Committee, set up by the Forestry Commission, had recommended a fixed-rate transport subsidy to take timber to areas north of Yorkshire. Mr John Gummer, the Minister of State for Agriculture, had yet to respond to the recommendation. The MPs said an urgent decision was needed in favour of the scheme.

The Government had given the Countryside Commission £2.75 million for the current financial year for restoring parks, footpaths and other public amenities. That was already spent. The damage would take years to repair. There had to be an orderly, properly-financed five-year programme.

Dr John Cunningham, the shadow Secretary of State for the Environment, last night wrote to Mr Ridley condemning the Treasury's "profits" from storm damage assistance, and demanding that retrospective changes be made.

Agriculture Committee: Storm Damage of 16 October 1987 (Stationery Office, £2.90).

Jerusalem crusader rides out



An outing with a troop of the Household Cavalry in Hyde Park, central London, helps to prepare Mr James Nash (front) for a 1,500-mile trek across the Middle East on horseback, in the footsteps of the Crusaders. Mr Nash, a chartered surveyor in the City of London, is making

the journey to raise money for the St John Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem. He sets off in seven days' time for Istanbul, where he will begin his four-month journey to the hospital. He hopes to raise £25,000 to endow a bed for patients. Eye disease is particularly

prevalent in the Middle East and the hospital treats 50,000 patients a year and carries out 5,000 operations. Mr Nash, who said he was "an indifferent horseman", has been training regularly with the Household Cavalry. (Photograph: Chris Harris).

King's Cross inquiry

Crews 'had to put life-saving first'

Fighting the King's Cross fire was rightly given second priority to rescuing people trapped in it, the man who took overall charge of the operation told the disaster inquiry yesterday.

Assistant Chief Officer Albert Kennedy, of the London Fire Brigade, was being asked whether with hindsight an alternative "safe way" into the depths of the station below the fire - through a subway from the King's Cross Midland station - should have been used earlier.

Mr Kennedy said the actions taken by fire crews and their officers that night were right. "They gave the number one priority to rescuing people from the fire. I have heard so much said about hindsight. But the number one priority at the time was the rescue and search for people."

The inquiry into the disaster in which 31 people died last November, was told in earlier evidence that a junior officer in charge of fire-fighting at an earlier stage had known of the existence of the King's Cross Midland subway, but did not pass on the information to officers taking over.

Mr John Drinkwater, QC, counsel for the Fire Brigade, asked Mr Kennedy: "If you had been the officer first in charge and you knew the existence of the King's Cross Midland access, and scarcely then had the resources to deploy to use it, would you have used it at that stage?"

Mr Kennedy said: "Not immediately. But entry would have been made at some later stage." He said the officer, Assistant Divisional Officer Clifford Shore, had relatively few firemen and urgently needed to rescue people trapped just inside the main station entrances.

Mr Drinkwater: "They could hear screams?"

Mr Kennedy said: "Let's

face it, at least they were alive. The people who aren't screaming may be in greater need of help than those who are screaming."

The absence of clear plans of the station caused him problems, he said. When he first arrived, the official plans provided by the Underground and kept in special boxes in the station for the fire brigade had not been found.

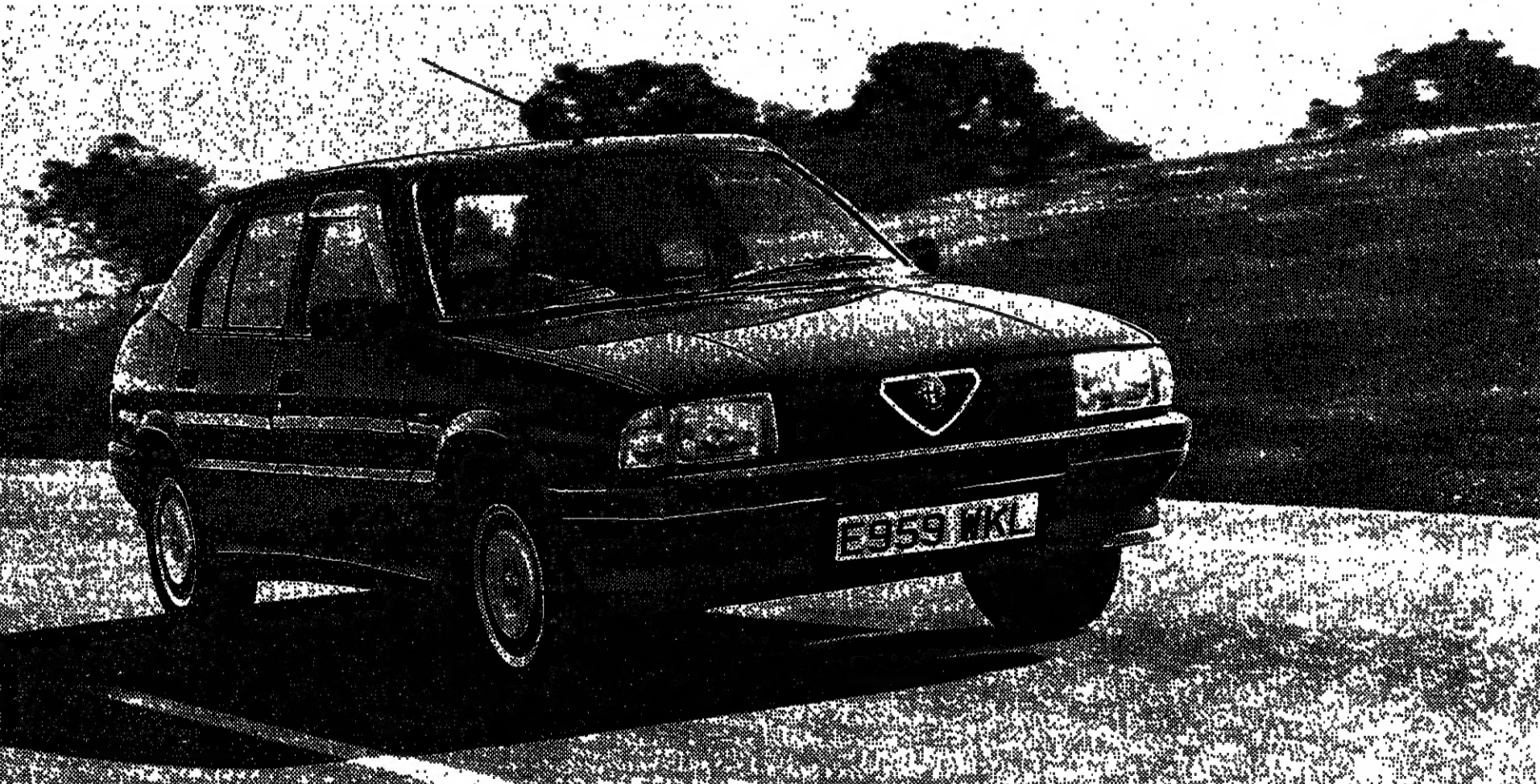
He had to rely on a rough plan drawn with the help of British Rail staff on a plastic wall board in the control room. When the official plans were found, they were too complicated. "I didn't know King's Cross very well. That plan was of no assistance to me."

Mr Kennedy said he was angered by "strong cross-examination" of Mr Shore and Deputy Assistant Chief Officer John Wilson, the two officers who had been in charge of the fire-fighting before him. He said he could only applaud their actions and those of others who, like Station Officer Colin Townsley who died, arrived in the early stages.

Mr Kennedy said: "I know what the situation was and I know how experienced they are. I know every action they took would be to save life." He said Mr Shore was faced with an impossible situation when he arrived. Because of the death of Mr Townsley, the fire officer in charge, Mr Shore had no one to brief him on what had happened.

Asked if he agreed with Mr Wilson's acceptance that use of the King's Cross Midland subway would have enabled the fire to have been tackled from below as well as above, Mr Kennedy said: "Under no circumstances would I have given any instructions to fight the fire from below."

The inquiry continues today.



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MG Maestro 2.0 EFI	5	£9420	8.7	115.6
Toyota Corolla 1.6 GTi	3	£10500	9.0	116.7
Vauxhall Astra 1.8 SRi	5	£9436	8.4	118.5
VW Golf GTi 1.8	5	£10598	8.5	115.4

Source: Motor Magazine

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Ershad elects claims five

Dhaka — Five people informed a court yesterday that the late president of Bangladesh, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, had been overthrown in a coup d'état. The court is now hearing the case.

Mediator dismissed

Managua — A mediator appointed by the United Nations to help the government and the rebels in Nicaragua reach a peace agreement has been dismissed. The mediator, a Canadian, was accused of bias.

French bias

Paris — A French official yesterday said that the United Nations mediator in Nicaragua was biased in favor of the rebels. The official said that the mediator had been given a list of demands by the rebels that he had not been allowed to discuss.

U2 wins Grammy

New York — The Irish rock band U2 won the Grammy award for best rock album yesterday. The band's album, "Rattle and Hum," was nominated for the award.

Fiberglass

Tel Aviv — A wooden statue of a man with a beard and a turban, which was found in a castle in the West Bank, is now being made of fiberglass. The statue is believed to be a representation of a religious figure.

Nato enco

The following communiqué was issued by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (Nato) yesterday:

The security situation in the Middle East remains tense. The Alliance is committed to maintaining peace and stability in the region.

The Alliance is also concerned about the situation in the Balkans. We are working to resolve the conflict in Yugoslavia.

Our aim is to prevent any further escalation of the situation. We are working to achieve a peaceful resolution.

Musica

Remarkable details of the life of the composer were revealed yesterday. The composer, who died in 1947, was a pioneer of the electronic music movement.

The composer's work was characterized by its use of electronic instruments and its exploration of new sounds. He was a pioneer in the use of the tape recorder and the synthesizer.

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صلى الله عليه وسلم

Man with a mission doggedly pursues Middle East pact Shultz optimistic despite hurdles

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

The hurdles facing Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, yesterday as he resumed his quest for peace in the Middle East appeared barely less daunting than they were a week ago.

The draft plan for a global settlement, which has been shown to Israeli leaders, is likely to have been the subject of talks between Mr Shultz and King Hussein in London yesterday. But no-one suggested that a breakthrough could be close.

Mr Shultz was meeting the king for the second time this week before leaving for Israel last night. Asked if the 1½ hour meeting had produced progress, he said: "I am smiling". He later saw Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, for 45 minutes.

Mr Shultz is expected to travel to Egypt and Syria before returning home.

But the limits of what he might be expected to achieve were underlined when he said there had been no change in Washington's ban on official contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

King Hussein's renewed insistence that the PLO should be involved in a peace conference left little room for the American approach to be accepted.

Washington's position is

that the PLO must recognize Israel and renounce violence before it can take part in negotiations.

There have been repeated attempts to bring about a meeting between Mr Shultz and Palestinian leaders other than the PLO. But this approach was all but abandoned yesterday in the face of strong Palestinian objections.

Before flying to London from Brussels, where he attended the Nato summit, Mr Shultz said it was unlikely he would be meeting a Palestinian delegation.

In a US television interview in Brussels, Mr Shultz cautioned: "The place (the Middle East) is full of impossible problems... Every once in a while you get one out of the way. Our effort is to try to put together a package that balances things off and allows us to get started."

But in another interview he sounded more optimistic. "I think in order for people to make decisions, they have to grasp the reality and see there's a need for compromise... I think people are increasingly realistic," he said.

Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, praised Mr Shultz for his decision to return to the Middle East but accused Israel's critics of failing to recognize what he called an Arab desire to occupy all of Israel.



Mr Shultz being greeted by King Hussein of Jordan at his London residence yesterday.

Washington sets out its timetable on peace process

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, flew back hopefully to Israel last night with the draft outline of his Middle East peace initiative in his pocket, knowing that its main elements have been rejected already by two of the key figures, King Hussein of Jordan and Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister.

Mr Shimon Peres, the Labour leader and Foreign Minister, said Mr Shultz's return showed that the peace process was continuing. But, he added, if it failed a general election should be called.

The draft plan for a global settlement has been shown to the two Israeli leaders by Mr Thomas Pickering, the American ambassador. It reportedly aims at a May 1 start for all negotiations.

On that date Israel and all interested neighbouring Arab countries would begin separate negotiations on the two UN resolutions (242 and 338) calling for recognition of Israel's right to exist in return for withdrawal from occupied territories.

At the same time there would start up to six months of negotiations between Israel and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to set up self-rule in the occupied territories. A three-year period of autonomy would start three months after the agreement about it was signed.

On December 1 talks would begin on the permanent solution to the entire problem. Throughout all the negotiations the United States would be involved as a partner.

The whole process would start with some kind of international conference involving the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and all those countries concerned which accept the relevant UN resolutions. It might take place in Washington some time in the middle of April and would be available thereafter to advise.

King Hussein, who wants a fuller role for the international conference and who is not keen to involve himself in talks about autonomy unless he is sure that Israel will withdraw from the occupied territories, is therefore not yet ready to sign up on the plan. The fact that he went to London for a dentist's appointment when Mr Shultz wanted to see him in Amman shows how little the King thought of it from the beginning. Mr Shultz, however, is now hopeful after his two meetings with the King in London that he can eventually be won round.

French agree to meet PLO political head

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

The head of the Palestine Liberation Organization's political department will hold talks here today with the French Foreign Minister on the continuing crisis in the Israeli occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr Farouk Kaddoumi arrived yesterday to begin a 48-hour visit which coincides with the attempt by the US to keep its initiative for a regional peace settlement alive.

Mr Kaddoumi's meeting with M Jean-Bernard Rai-

mond at the Quai d'Orsay marks the first high-level contact between France and the PLO since the violence began, and will be seen in some quarters as an indication of French reservations about the "package" with which Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, has been shuttling around the region.

Mr Raymond's decision to see Mr Kaddoumi at this particular moment suggests that France is reinforcing its claim to be part of any Middle East peace conference that may eventually be convened.

The same is not yet true of the Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Shamir, who wants a much smaller role for any international "opening" at most, is not prepared to withdraw from one square inch of the occupied territories. He made this abundantly clear to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations on Wednesday evening in West Jerusalem.

Those who accuse us of being occupiers of Arab areas and speaking to us of morality, of human rights, must not forget that this very place is in the hands of the occupiers.

Mr George Shultz's peace mission was bitterly attacked by a Palestinian Arab member of the Israeli Parliament, Mr Muhammad Wattad, one of five Knesset Palestinians, said in London that Mr Shultz's mission was designed to reassure US public opinion, not to produce a solution (Andrew McEwen writes).

While most Arab leaders have urged Mr Shultz to continue his efforts, Mr Wattad described his mission as "a rocking chair, creating an impression of movement while remaining stationary". Given Washington's refusal to deal with the PLO and its failure to apply economic pressure on Israel, it was unrealistic to hope for real progress.

A member of the left-wing Mapam Party, Mr Wattad has more confidence than might be expected that Israeli politics will respond to the pressures created by Palestinian unrest in the occupied territories.

the eyes of the Arabs territory that belongs as of right to the Arab people," he said. "Any Israeli withdrawal in these circumstances could have disastrous consequences and reduce the chance of peace. When we will not be there, if our army will not be there, the violence will come here to Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa."

Mr Peres, who has little difficulty with any of the American package, is now being pilloried by Mr Shamir and his Likud faction for not standing up for Israel. It is a useful electrifying device.

The difficulties Mr Shultz is having with each of those concerned could be in proportion to the amount of time he has spent with them. Up to last night the "league table" showed: Mr Shamir, nine hours; Mr Peres, eight hours; King Hussein, six hours; President Assad of Syria, six hours; Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan, five hours; President Mubarak of Egypt, three hours.

Syria seeks credit for release of German hostage

From Juan Carlos Gamutio, west Beirut

Herr Ralph Schray, a West German engineer kidnapped by Shia Muslim extremists in a west Beirut street a month ago, regained his freedom yesterday and was immediately driven to Damascus to be handed over to Bonn's diplomats in the Syrian capital.

Herr Schray's trip to Damascus was evidently conceived to underline Syria's role in the latest release and to help enhance President Assad's image as a key mediator.

Shortly after the release of the 31-year-old West German, Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, was said to have telephoned Syrian officials to thank them for their help. He was also said to have expressed Bonn's hopes that similar efforts could also bring about the freedom of other hostages held by the same group that abducted Herr Schray.

The group, calling itself "Holy Warriors of Freedom", seized Herr Schray on February 27 as part of a campaign to win the release of Muhammad Ali Hamadei and Abbas Hamadi, two Shia Muslim Lebanese brothers imprisoned in West Germany. The former was arrested at Frankfurt Airport for transporting explosives and is wanted in the

United States in connection with the hijacking of a TWA jetliner to Beirut in 1985 in which an American serviceman was murdered. Abbas Hamadei is being tried on charges of kidnapping two West Germans in Beirut to try to gain his brother's release.

The Hamadei's elder brother, Abdul-Hadi Hamadei, a security official of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah (Party of God) in Beirut, is believed to have masterminded the abduction of Herr Schray with the same objective. His release, however, suggests that the Syrians now may have direct communication with the men holding Herr Cordes, the Beirut manager of West Germany's Hoechst chemical company, who was seized on January 17 of last year.

Hours before the release of Herr Schray, a statement from the "Holy Warriors" said that "the Hamadei brothers are still in Germany... the release (of Herr Schray) is goodwill gesture number two", a reference to the freeing last September of Herr Alfred Schmidt, an engineer.

© BONN: The West German Government yesterday denied it had made a deal with Herr Schray's kidnappers, either financially or with a promise of early release for the Hamadei brothers (John England writes).

Sri Lanka massacre blamed on Tamils

Colombo — Nine children were among 15 civilians killed by Tamil guerrillas in Sri Lanka's Eastern Province, security sources said yesterday (Vintha Yapa writes).

The authorities blamed the killings in the village of Morawewa on Tuesday, on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. Fourteen of the victims were from the majority Sinhalese community.

The massacre was being seen as a warning to the Government to stop sending Sinhalese back to the area around the port city of Trincomalee from where thousands fled last year.

Plane blast

Johannesburg (AFP) — A bomb was the probable cause of a mid-air explosion which killed all 17 people on board a Bophuthatswana aircraft.

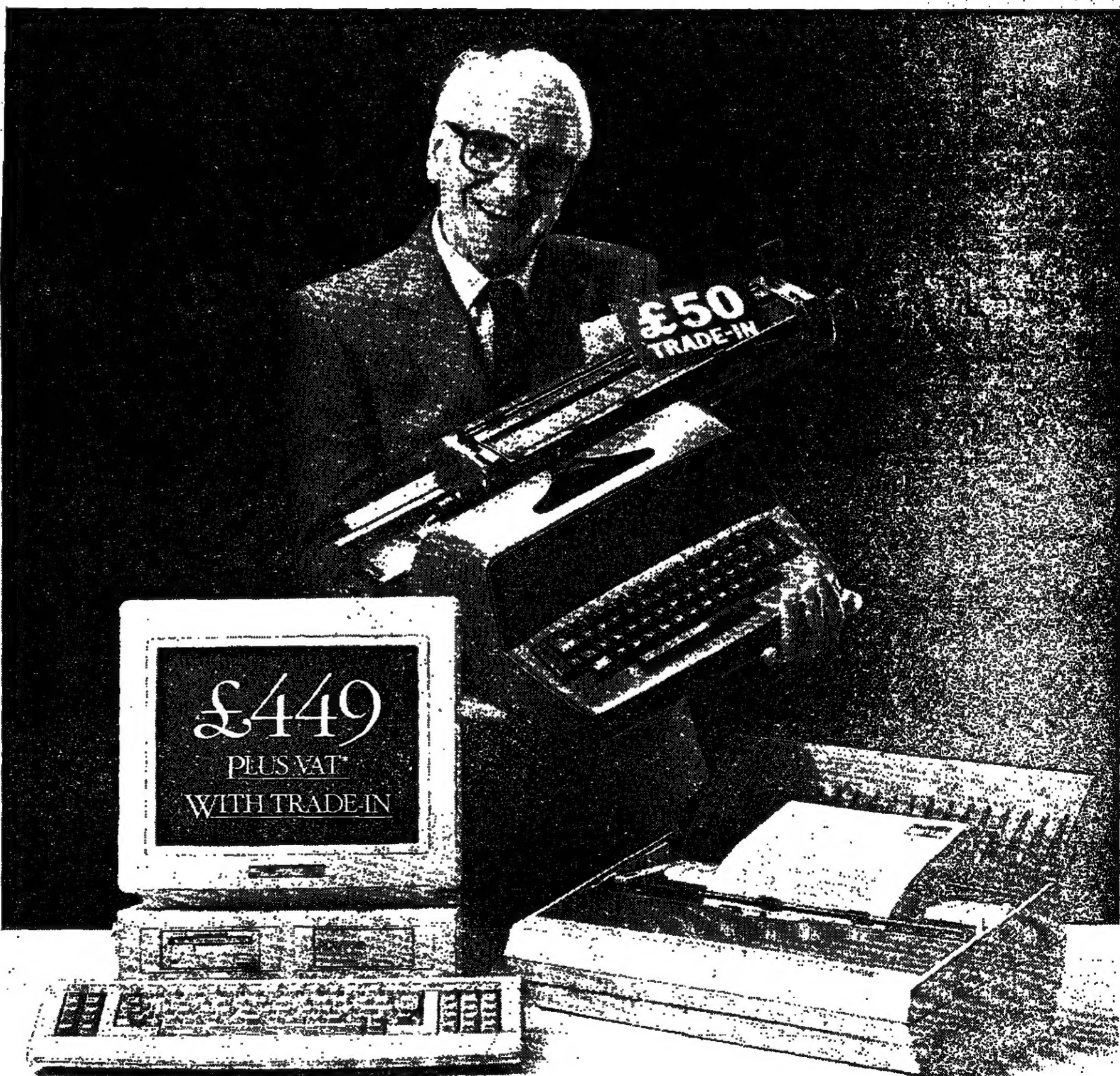
MiGs depart

Cairo (AP) — Four Libyan pilots who landed their MiG-23s in Egypt claiming bad weather had been allowed to fly the planes home.

Neo-Nazi case

Copenhagen (AP) — A West German living in Denmark, Herr Thies Christophersen, aged 70, is being extradited to face charges on alleged neo-Nazi activities.

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Execution of Alimnia commandos

Investigator of Waldheim hardens case on Britons

Professor Hagen Fleischer, one of the historians who sat on the commission that investigated the wartime activities of President Waldheim of Austria, claims that Dr Waldheim must have been involved in events that led to the execution of six captured British commandos.

Professor Fleischer, a German who teaches modern history at Crete University, has compiled a timetable of Dr Waldheim's movements between 1942 and 1944 in an attempt to shed light on the last days of the six British servicemen and three Greek sailors who were captured during an Allied raid on Alimnia island.

"Lieutenant Waldheim was with his unit through most of the interrogation of the Alimnia commandos and the discussion on their ultimate fate," Professor Fleischer told *The Times*. "It is impossible that any decisions were taken without his consent." The calendar shows that Lieutenant Waldheim obtained his law degree in Vienna on April 16, returned to Salonika on April 16, and stayed there until August 15 when he returned to Vienna to get married.

Existing documents identify

him as head of Section 3 of the Intelligence Unit 1c of HQ Army Group E which was responsible for questioning prisoners. The signature of his number two, Lieutenant Helmut Poliza, for instance, figures prominently on the depositions of the three Greek sailors on April 21, along with that of the interpreter.

Professor Fleischer empha-

Vienna (Reuter) — Austria's coalition Government was facing possible collapse yesterday over a £2.3 billion tax reform. Both the Socialists and conservative People's Party agree the package must be self-financing, but the Socialists want a 20 per cent tax on interest on savings accounts.

sized that there were no written record of where the captured men were executed, although adding: "There is no doubt in my mind that they were executed in Greece. In the official jargon these went down as *nacht und nebel* (night and fog) executions. They were not publicized."

Another aspect of the case unravelled by Professor Fleischer was the fact that the German High Command was being tempted to invade Turkey while the Allies were using the Turkish coast for mounting operations in the Aegean.

He said the Germans needed the evidence culled during the interrogation of the

British commandos. This included a diary kept by one of them, radio operator Ray Carpenter, and instructions found on Mihalis Ligaris, the Greek captain of the schooner used during the Alimnia operation.

A top secret order — made available to the commission that investigated Dr Waldheim — went from the Ger-

man Supreme HQ South-East Europe in Belgrade, dated April 27, to Intelligence Unit 1c of HQ Army Group E at Arsakli, near Salonika, where Dr Waldheim was head of Section 3, also responsible for prisoner interrogation. Professor Fleischer said it was worded: "The British wireless operator and the Greek sailor must be kept under strict guard, ready to present their testimony."

The same order described the fate of the other five commandos and the two Greek sailors. "The rest of the prisoners must be surrendered to SD (security police) for subsequent special treatment (*sonderbehandlung*) in ac-

cordance with the Führer's order." Hitler had ordered that all captured enemy commandos should be executed and not treated as prisoners of war as required by the Geneva Convention. It is assumed that the five Britons and the two Greeks were shot a day or two later.

On May 22 Belgrade HQ asked GHQ in Germany whether the remaining captured British commando and Greek sailor were still needed. The reply, two weeks later, was negative. "Send for special treatment," it concluded. Carpenter and Ligaris must have been executed after June 5.

Professor Fleischer believes that Dr Waldheim's intelligence section was directly involved with the handling of British prisoners. For instance two Britons, a Sergeant John Dryden and a Private Fishwick, as well as an American medical assistant, a James Doughty, were caught during a commando raid in Kalymnos in July, 1944. The first was taken to Athens for "special treatment". Fishwick died in hospital. But Doughty, because he was unarmed, was sent to a POW camp in Germany. The relevant order bore the initial "W".

Eight killed in Spanish train crash



A sleeping car straddled by the wreckage of an express passenger train which plunged into Spain's Valladolid station yesterday, killing eight people and injuring 28. Rescuers cut through the wrecked sleeping car for seven hours to reach the dead and injured in Spain's worst railway accident in four years. The

Madrid-Santander train was stationary when it was struck by the Madrid-Bilbao express. Passengers were asleep on the Santander train at the time. The state railway company, Renfe, said that the Madrid-Bilbao train failed to obey a signal to stop. But Señor Domingo Ferreira, the provincial governor, said its brakes

could have failed. The first body recovered was that of a girl, aged 15, dressed in her nightgown. Señor Felix Ducasse, Public Works Minister of the regional government of Cantabria, was also killed. It was Spain's worst railway accident since nine people were killed in a collision near Alicante.

Row over London visit

MPs attack bid to gag Dalai Lama

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

The Dalai Lama, who is to visit Britain next month, has been required by the Foreign Office to give an undertaking that he will not make political statements, according to sources.

The requirement was criticized yesterday by Lord Avebury, chairman of the Parliamentary Human Rights Group, who said it was unprecedented. "I believe it is a violation of Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights," he said.

The Tibetan Buddhist leader, who teaches non-violence, is coming to Britain in his capacity as a spiritual luminary of one of the world's largest faiths. But the Foreign Office has insisted that he should do nothing to emphasize his other role as exiled figurehead of Tibet's six million Buddhists, some of whom rioted against Chinese rule in 1959 and again last October.

The sources believe that the restrictions reflect government fears of offending China's Foreign Minister, Mr Wu Xueqian, who arrives in London on Thursday for a week's visit. He will be a guest of the Government and will

see the Prime Minister, Foreign Secretary and Home Secretary.

Although the Dalai Lama will not arrive until April 5, three weeks after the Chinese minister has left, the fear is that his visit will reopen a subject which the Chinese prefer not to discuss.

A Conservative MP sympathetic to the Dalai Lama told *The Times* that he understood that the Government would say nothing which could suggest that it did not accept China's sovereignty. He said he understood the Government's reasons, and other sources added that the importance of retaining good relations with China had to take precedence.

Both for geopolitical reasons and because of continuing negotiations on the transfer of sovereignty of Hong Kong, Britain needs a close relationship with Peking. There is also a growing commercial interest.

The Foreign Office said yesterday: "Successive British governments have consistently regarded Tibet as autonomous while recognizing the special position of the Chinese authorities there."

Letter from Seoul

Squaring up for a ritual battle

They look like medieval warriors preparing for battle, black helmets glinting dully in the moonlight, visors obscuring slanted, watchful eyes. A harsh clatter as weapons are drawn and shields clang together, and the ranks close behind a wall of steel as the enemy approaches.

Over a rise they come, thousands of them, their banners flying and cries of defiance filling the night air. Raised fists and headbands painted with slogans heighten their fearsome aspect. They halt only a few yards away, and a cacophony of jeers and taunts assails the silent defenders. Suddenly a whistle

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is blown, and the steel-clad ranks charge. A hail of stones, a flash of fire from petrol bombs, and a staccato burst of tear gas grenades, and battle is joined once again between the militant students and riot police of South Korea.

The clash is dramatic, producing vivid images of violence on television screens around the world, yet it is also misleading. The paradox is that such clashes are disciplined, almost ritual affairs, in which serious injury is the exception rather than the rule.

If brutality is rare, there is a good reason for it. Many of South Korea's so-called combat police are students themselves, fulfilling their obligation of two years' national service before returning to their classrooms. It is not uncommon for friends and even relatives to recognize each other in the opposing camps. Thus the authorities tend to deploy recruits from Seoul National University at disturbances at Yonsei University, and vice-versa.

A telling scene was witnessed during a recent clash, when a policeman stumbled into a student, who instinctively lashed out with a stone

which ripped open the man's visor and inflicted a nasty face wound. Visibly appalled by his action, the student tended the officer until help arrived, and then meekly surrendered.

Arrests are usually left to special "snatch-squads" of plain-clothes police, wearing distinctive white helmets, who tend to make more liberal use of the boot and the club.

It is axiomatic that each participant should be suitably dressed for such occasions. Hence the security forces wear gas masks, padded clothing and "Darth Vader" helmets named after those favoured by the baddies in the film *Star Wars*. The overall effect is an Orwellian nightmare.

The students uniformly sport surgical face masks and an assortment of crash helmets and hard hats. They usually spurn gas masks, but those who feel the need may have them fitted with prescription lenses by an enterprising young man at Yonsei University for the equivalent of £5.

Reporters need to be similarly attired. American and Korean gas masks may be bought freely on the black market for about £40. One Finnish correspondent is the envy of his colleagues with a brand-new model donated by his country's military, on the understanding that he writes a report on its performance. Gloves are also mandatory to protect the skin.

Inevitably, serious injuries occur. Mr Kwon Se Taek, a brave cameraman with Visnews, the international television news agency, suffered multiple shrapnel wounds in his legs when a gas bomb exploded beside him last week. Doctors are concerned that his injuries may be infected by gas powder clinging to the plastic bomb fragments. Mr Kwon, aged 33, was married only three months ago.

Gavin Bell

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MORTGAGE SERVICE

A system out of balance



Has the Inland Revenue become too aggressive? Is the taxpayer deemed guilty unless proved innocent? At the end of our series these are the

questions that demand an answer, but David Brewerton met only silence from the officials at Somerset House

"The manner in which the departments are perceived by the public to operate is of extreme importance from the point of view of the avoidance of friction and the smooth running of the system. Good relations between officers of the departments and members of the taxpayer public are essential, and every effort must be made to achieve this."

So reported the Keith Committee, which was set up in 1980 to review the enforcement powers of the Revenue departments: the Inland Revenue and the Customs and Excise. Half a decade after the first volume of the Keith Report was issued, there is an uneasy feeling that relations between revenue officers and members of the taxpayer public are getting worse, rather than better.

Professional accountants such as Andrew Jones, tax partner with the internationally respected firm of Ernst & Whinney, and Jeremy Allan and David MacLean of Arthur Young, do not easily agree to be quoted in the national Press. Their willingness to speak of the state of relationships between the tax gatherers and the taxpayers is indicative of their concern.

But it is not only the accountants and the taxpayers who are concerned. One tax inspector who contacted *The Times* this week said: "I'm horrified by some of the things that are going on."

He feels that some inspectors are less than honest about the scope of their powers. For instance, they will go on "fishing" trips when their code of conduct states that they should give reasons for an investigation. The tax system can function

properly only with the co-operation of both the professions and the public, a point which was made forcibly by The Institute of Taxation, a body comprising both lawyers and accountants, in a recent letter to the Inland Revenue.

Responding to proposals which would give the Inland Revenue further powers, the Institute said the proposals "are too heavily weighted against the taxpayer and in favour of the Inland Revenue", and they would need the wholehearted support of the professions most closely affected.

"Only when the proper balance between the conflicting needs and



rights of the Inland Revenue is achieved, will the (Inland Revenue) departments and the government have a right to expect the co-operation of the professions."

That balance is, in the eyes of many accountants, far from equilibrium at the present time. The revenue, as one accountant observed, has all the powers. The taxpayer has none.

This is more important than mere courtesy to the taxpayer, although that is the least one should be able to expect from any government department. As the Institute points out, if tax rules are seen as unfair, there is a very real

danger either they will not work, or that there would be "a very marked and rapid shift towards more adversarial relationships between the departments and taxpayers, with both sides adopting extremely aggressive technical positions."

"Anecdotal evidence suggests that that situation already exists in certain other countries and that overall, the tax revenue yield declines rather than increases, and that there is no positive impact on the 'black economy'."

This week *The Times* has asked repeatedly for an interview with the appropriate Revenue officials to explore some of the many issues

of concern raised by the series. We were told that this time of year, just weeks away from the Budget, is very busy for the Inland Revenue. On another occasion we were told that the person who would make the decision on whether or not to "grant" an interview was out of the office. Then we were informed that the Inland Revenue wished to see all the articles before deciding whether or not to be interviewed. Finally, yesterday morning, *The Times* was informed that the Inland Revenue would not agree to an interview, nor would it respond to written questions.

"In reply to your request for an

interview on this week's *Spectrum* articles, we would first like to see the full series of articles before considering inviting you to publish a written response," the Inland Revenue said.

Even if the Inland Revenue will not answer questions in public, there are many questions which it should ask itself:

■ What has become of the Taxpayers Charter?

■ Why are leading accountants prepared to risk their long term relationships with the Inland Revenue to draw attention to current problems?

■ Can the Inland Revenue explain why relations between its inspectors, the professions and the public seem to be getting worse?

■ Are the targets set for the amount of tax to be raised from investigation work leading to over-enthusiastic action by individual inspectors?

■ Is it true that career prospects within the Inland Revenue are determined by the amount of extra tax that individuals manage to collect? Are these amounts monitored? Are targets set?

■ Why do taxpayers fear that if they complain they will be "hounded" for years afterwards?

■ Why do taxpayers feel they have to prove their innocence, rather than the onus of proof resting with the Inland Revenue?

■ Is the Inland Revenue guilty of bullying?

This last question I put to Andrew Jones, tax partner of Ernst & Whinney.

"The situation is combative," he replied. In the careful language of accountants, nothing more need be said.

Greek nettle grasped

How a shipping tycoon and his wife have embarked on a mission for nature

It is odd to hear the word "maybe" so frequently from the mouth of someone as single-minded as Niki Goulondris. Twenty-four years ago, she and her husband Angelos took on the salvation of Greece's natural resources by founding the country's first and only natural history museum, in the face of almost total public and political apathy.

But their exhibition on the plight of trees has just ended after two months, with a total of 64,000 visitors seeing the extent of their achievement. Part of a monthly shipping clan, the couple bought an old mansion in the ancient resort of Kifissia, 10 miles from Athens, in 1964, and put a museum in it — at a cost of about £5 million. Trained as a painter, Niki Goulondris had gone on to study at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Edinburgh and the Natural History Museum in London. Then she applied her knowledge to painting Greece's unique plant life, before tackling her greatest venture.

Creating a museum, she discovered, means creating a collection, and it took the pair of them 11 years to build it up to a sufficiently high standard. Now there are 200,000 specimens and a staff of 47. Their first international show opened in London at the Natural History Museum last week.

The focal point of "Peonies of Greece: Myths, Science and Arts" is a series of a dozen lithographs of Niki Goulondris's paintings of peonies, the flower named after the Trojan god of healing. It had remarkable medicinal powers, Niki says. Hippocrates swore by it.

Although the Greek prime minister opened the couple's trees exhibition, Niki Goulondris insists: "Politicians are short sighted because elections are only held every four years. For the environment, you need to look 25 or 30 years ahead."

The biggest threat to the Greek environment, though, is not acid rain — it is goats. There are 4.5 million of them in Greece: one for every two humans. "Maybe it's true," Niki Goulondris observes, "that unless the Greek eats his goat, his goat will eat Greece."

Simon Tait

The lure that turns gamekeeper into poacher

A taxpayer in the north of England was investigated for two years because his annual personal income of £15,000, together with his wife's salary of £6,000, did not seem sufficient to support his modest way of life. Ian McGuire, national tax research manager for accountants Hodgson Incey, recalls how his firm's client was recently relieved of suspicion: "We pointed out that the amount available for him to live on considerably exceeded the Inspector's own salary and that no doubt his own affairs were therefore subject to an investigation by the Inland Revenue!"

It was probably one of the most good-natured settlements on record — but the anecdote conceals the highest headache currently afflicting the Revenue. A fully-trained inspector of taxes is not well paid for his skills. And if his grade produces an annual income of £20,000, then he can expect an

increase of at least £10,000 the moment he agrees to defect and join an accountancy firm.

With 120 inspectors resigning during 1987, last year was the worst on record. Among inspectors approaching the end of their three-year training, the resignation rate was nearly 12 per cent and little official comfort could be provided by the 152 new entrants who took up duty. "One wonders how many of these will still be in post three years hence," demands an editorial in the magazine of the Association of Inspectors of Taxes, "and how much of an estimated £50,000 per head training cost will have been used as a disguised subsidy for the accountancy profession." The total cost of training last year's defecting inspectors amounted to about £6 million.

The latest annual report of the Board of Inland Revenue readily recognizes the crisis: "We mentioned (in the previous year's report) the marked increase in the level of resignation in some parts of the Department in recent years. There remains a major problem, and in some areas the position has worsened." The report claims that the private sector also suffers from a high turnover of staff, but acknowledges that "unlike them, we are not able to recruit experienced staff".

So why do the Revenue's gamekeepers prefer the life of a poacher? Rick Helsby, aged 39, who left to join Deloitte Haskins and Sells, one of the world's top eight firms of chartered accountants, gives his reason: "disenchantment with the current rates of pay and disenchantment with my prospects for the future. Outside companies offer significantly more in the way of pay and prospects."

Although the "brain drain" into the private sector would appear to

be of greater benefit to the taxpayer rather than his pursuer, many accountants blame the new aggressiveness within the Revenue for the need to develop their own counter-investigation departments. "Small accountants are having to consider mergers in order to get a tax expert into the partnership," says Monroe Palmer, of London accountants Palmer Marshall.

And another leading London accountant voices a fast-growing concern within the profession: "When the Revenue set up its special investigation offices it selected its best-trained people for the job. Many of these people have now left its service. One doesn't object to greater power so long as it is accompanied by greater responsibility — but this no longer seems to be the case."

William Greaves and Vivien Goldsmith

FINDINGS

A weekly series on research

PUBLIC OPINION

Soap operas have become the favourite television programmes of children even before they reach their teens, according to a survey by The Research Business. The poll asked 400 children about their viewing. The four programmes to receive the greatest number of spontaneous mentions among six-to-eight year-olds were all cartoons, with *East-Enders* and the school soap *Grange Hill* in joint fifth place. Among nine-to-10 year-olds, *Grange Hill* was in second place, followed by an assortment of comedy programmes and other soaps. Among 13-14 year-olds, *East-Enders* was by far the best-liked programme; *Brookside* was second. Robert Worcester

CONSERVATION

Studies of extinction rates among eight species of orb spider on 108 Bermudian islands have a bearing on British conservation. They show that small spider populations regularly become extinct but are re-colonized from larger permanent populations. This is bad news for British conservation because most of our nature reserves are small and fragmented: if other species are the spiders, extinction will be frequent but there will be no larger populations to repopulate the small colonies. Paul Munton

METEOROLOGY

For many years meteorologists have debated whether smoke and man-made particulates, including aerosols, could affect temperature. Two contradictory effects could occur. More droplets could be formed in the clouds, increasing reflectivity — a cooling effect; or their dirty, sooty nature could allow more sunlight through — a warming effect. Recent satellite measurements of the impact of smoke from ships' funnels are that in certain con-

ditions reflectivity, if this is proved to be a general result, it means that man-made particulates could lead to a cooling of the climate. W.J. Burroughs

ARCHAEOLOGY

Musical instruments found in ancient Maya burials have helped to reconstruct the funeral ritual of the lost civilization. A drum, eight ocarinas — flutes in the shape of human figures — and two unique instruments that combine a flute with a rattle filled with clay balls were found with two noblemen buried at the small site of Pacbitun, in Belize, central America. "Professional musicians probably used them to escort the funeral cortege to the tomb, where some of the instruments may have been broken and left behind on purpose," says Dr Paul Healy, who found them. "The solemn sound matched the doleful quality of Maya music in written accounts." The combination of flute playing the melody and rattles providing the rhythm is still known in the music of the living Maya. Norman Hammond

SPACE TRAVEL

Research scientists at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) hope that by the end of the century surgeons on earth will be able to operate on astronauts hundreds of thousands of miles in space. This long distance "telesurgery" will involve linking a robot in a spacecraft to a ground-based surgeon, wearing a visor-like viewer on his head to see the patient and an interactive glove with electronic sensors to guide the robot's scalpel. The robot will "tell" actuators in the glove what it is feeling electronically (pressure, motion, vibration or temperature). The glove will translate this information into physical sensations, giving the surgeon a real sense of touch, and recreating the feel of the operation. The surgeon will send the necessary instructions to the robotic arm until the operation is complete. Andrew Wiseman

Tournament of the Mind



● Round Ten of the tournament with questions, set by Mensa, designed to test your logic, word power, numeracy and general knowledge, and a £5,000 cash prize for the individual winner

ROUND TEN — QUESTIONS

Try all the questions — remember it's the top scores that count

1 LOGIC Score 8

The letters of the word CHAMPAGNE have been placed haphazardly in this square. By starting at the bottom C and moving upwards to the top E you will find more than one way of collecting all the letters (in any order) of the word. You may move horizontally and vertically but not diagonally. How many ways are there?

G	N	M	M	E
A	H	M	P	G
G	A	A	A	N
H	P	M	N	M
C	H	A	A	P

2 VERBAL Score 8

We have arranged the word PETAL so that it reads downwards as well as across. The intention is to complete the square with four more words that read across and down in the same way. The first will begin with the E of petal, the second with the T and so on. Can you tell us which word begins with the letter 'L'? Here are all of the letters which you must use to complete the square:

SSVYYNOOEEERRRR
P E T A L

In the General Knowledge section of yesterday's tournament (Round Nine) Question 2 should have read: Which golfer won the British Open five times between 1975 and 1987?

3 MATHS Score 9

Compare each half of the H below. One half will give you a clue which will enable you to understand the logic. Can you tell us what should replace the question mark?

3		9
11		13
19	23	7
15		15
7		11

4 MISCELLANEOUS Score 7

A man set out to walk from one town to another. On the first day he covered one fifth of the total distance. On the second day he covered one half of the remaining distance and on the third, one quarter of what was left. On the fourth day, after covering one fifth of the remaining distance, he was fifteen and three-fifths miles from the town. How many miles had he covered so far?

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE Score 2,2,2,2,3

- Which barefooted British singer won the Eurovision Song Contest?
- During World War II what was a Mae West?
- In which novel does Becky Sharp appear?
- Which island is called the George Cross Island?
- In which town did the original Peeping Tom live?



ROUND TEN — ANSWERS

Cut out your answers and keep this coupon until Round 20. Answers will be accepted only on coupons printed in *The Times*

PUZZLES
Answer 1 Answer 2
Answer 3 Answer 4
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE
Answer 1
Answer 2
Answer 3
Answer 4
Answer 5
NAME

SATURDAY

Portfolio — PLUS NEW — Accumulator At least £8,000 to be won



Battling for brock

Late in the night, a slip of a woman sets out to do battle again with the deadly creatures of the darkness — the lampers, the lurchers and the badger-diggers. The story of her dangerous lone crusade will be told in *The Times* tomorrow

Holiday home of the gods
Discovering the Greeks in Sicily

Potluck from the pantry
Surprises from a spring-clean

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1505

CROSSWORD puzzle grid with clues. Clues include: 1 Healthy nakedness (6), 2 Sword top knob (6), 3 Setback (1), 4 Church of England member (8), 5 Steering wheel pivot (7), 6 Good spirits (5), 7 Central England orchard area (4,2,7), 8 Musical theme (5), 9 Horse hoof projection (7), 10 In favourable situation (8), 11 Forked tail seabird (4), 12 Goad (6), 13 Sounds (6), 14 Club errand boy (4), 15 Malcolm III's predecessor (7), 16 Parthenon marbles peer (5), 17 Sheet tie point (5), 18 Gets going (5), 19 Gall bladder fluid (4), 20 Potentials (7), 21 Italian financial centre (5), 22 Parthenon marbles peer (5), 23 Gets going (5), 24 Gall bladder fluid (4).

SOLUTION TO NO 1504
ACROSS: 1 Deduce, 4 Unique, 9 Transom, 10 Blitz, 11 Sofa, 12 Phantom, 14 Hold in trust, 15 Disaff, 19 Orgy, 22 One up, 24 Rake
DOWN: 1 Duty, 2 Orzo, 3 Casandra, 5 Nab, 6 Quicquid, 7 Enzyme, 8 HMS Pinafore, 11 Sob, 13 Air pocket, 15 Obscene, 16 Tay, 17 Odious, 20 Group, 21 Afar, 23 Fat

صلى الله عليه وسلم

FRIDAY PAGE

Her brother's young keeper

The first I heard of the Scotson family was the shouting and thumping, echoing through the empty Cannon cinema in East Grinstead. "Keep running, Doran! Remember your arms!" "Mummy, he's pestering me!" "Doran, keep away from Lili! Keep running!"

The tone was strident but good-humoured, like an athletics coach training a recalcitrant junior team. As I stepped into the plush cave of the cinema, figures ran towards me in the dim light: a leggy 11-year-old girl and a much smaller, less co-ordinated boy.

It was a lunch-hour session, 30 minutes "cross-patterned" arm-swinging running in the winter hospitality of the local cinema. It is part of the children's regular programme, laid down by the Kerland Institute for Child Development in Somerset, following the principles evolved by Glenn Doman in his Philadelphia Institute for the Achievement of Human Potential.

Libby Purves reports on sibling love of an extraordinary kind

The theory is that intensive physical activity, at first with the help of volunteers moving a brain-damaged baby's limbs for hours a day, can actually forge new neurological pathways in the brain and bypass the injured parts. They call it "patterning", and Doran Scotson is one of its most remarkable British successes: in his nine years he has progressed from a baby pronounced by doctors to be a "cabbage", into a boy who runs everywhere, goes to a normal school, speaks with increasing clarity and fights his corner. (When the family recorded next Monday's *Kilroy* programme for the BBC, Linda says, "Doran had his hand up for ages to speak

before he was noticed, and I really thought he might get up there and murder Mr Kilroy-Silk".)

Doran is a bit of a brat: but he is a miracle. His story has been told before. But Linda Scotson has now celebrated in a separate book the contribution of his elder sister, Lili. Even as a two-year-old confronted with a yellow, screaming baby she did her best: showed him toys, yelled nursery rhymes in his barely functioning ears, and fiercely dressed him.

When he was near death with an infection, the toddler instructed the hospital nurses on how to look after him: "He likes baths and really really loud kisses". As a new schoolchild, she suffered isolation among her peers and a sense of guilt that his condition might be in some way her fault. She has crept and crawled and shared breathing exercises with him for encouragement, and even taken turns on the rather terrifying apparatus slung in the living-room for whirling him round by his feet — this treatment is often startling to



Lili Scotson with her mother Linda and Doran: siblings "bring hope and humanity", Linda Scotson says

outsiders — but the reason she is now puffing around the darkened cinema is that she is on a "programme" of her own: for Lili, too, has had mild neurological problems from childhood illnesses.

"One of the things about a family with a brain-injured child," her mother says sadly, "is that you assume too easily that all the other children are quite all right and need nothing. Doran and I both owe a tremendous debt to Lili. She has been very wise and very kind, beyond her years."

Today, as Doran's understand-

ing increases, it is Lili who does another service by sitting with him, leafing through a photograph album and explaining about their father, Peter, whom she just remembers, and who committed suicide shortly before Doran was born. "She tells it better than I could," says her mother.

It has not always been easy for the Scotsons. There has been continual borderline poverty: the family will probably save the taxpayer a great deal in the long run because the odds are that Doran will become a taxpayer instead of

a charge on the state, yet this is unrecognized. Their wardrobe has been Oxfam and WRVS for years; materially, Lili must be one of the least spoiled children in Britain.

At times, Linda says, in the early days, "I seemed to be sacrificing my well, whole daughter for my blind, deaf, screaming son". It is a dilemma faced by many parents: how many abortions are undertaken because the parents fear the effect on the existing children? So the second part of her book is about other families in the same state. It makes fascinat-

ing reading. A whole neglected class of children emerges: the siblings of the handicapped.

"They are unrecognized, unsung, generally unrewarded," Linda says. "Social and benefit systems help them very little. But most of them expressed protective love of their hurt sibling."

It appears from both Linda's research and Doman's that a mentally impaired child has a better chance in a poor, rather chaotic household than in an affluent one. "A bit of mess is accepted, and they are put on the floor, where they can move." Doran's early pleasure, and progress, came from being dragged around roughly by toddler Lili and her friends. "Sibs," Linda says, "do their best to bring hope and humanity into operation. They hate deathliness and morbidity. They know that you can never go back. You have to push on."

Lili is a sober child: she has already done a serious job of work, and knows it. I told her about another family with a five-year-old daughter and a newborn baby who is thought to be brain-damaged. She focused instantly on the big sister. "Please give her my best love," she said. "And tell her I hope she manages to keep going." Her reaction was not of sad sympathy: she saw a damaged baby as a job of work, not a burden. And she is still only 11 years old.

© Times Newspapers Ltd 1988
The Other Child by Linda Scotson is published by Collins (£11.95). The Kerland Foundation for Child Development can be contacted at Marsh Lane, Huntworth Gate, Bridgewater, Somerset.

Question the legislation, not the need

This week the Government announced its intention to make the possession of child pornography a crime. It happened, by coincidence, that I was reading reports of a conviction earlier this month of a 31-year-old homosexual paedophile who had pleaded guilty to 32 charges of sexual and indecent assault on young boys. James Wilfred Stock had never used physical force but his "friendship" had lured more than 50 children into his flat, where police found 600 hours of video tapes, 500 child pornography magazines and 4,000 photographs and slides. "He lives, dreams and fantasizes little boys," said one policeman at the trial.

What a cursed life, I thought. One holds no brief for paedophiles, of course, but the case certainly illustrated a man in human bondage. A good-looking chap, Stock would have had no difficulty with women had his needs turned that way. It seemed curious that the children would all go along with Stock's activities quite willingly, often bringing back friends for second and third encounters. I suppose it simply illustrates the enormous curiosity pre-pubescent children have about sexual matters and the need for society to stand firm against those who wish to take advantage of them.

At the same time one can't help reflecting on what a human being can do when faced with an unnatural urge that cannot be fulfilled in any way except by a criminal act. Should Stock's actions be criminal one wonders, or should any sexual act which does not involve coercion, force or kidnapping be decriminalized? The logic to do so may have some merit, but the instinct to protect our children from any sexual encounter is strong.

In fact, my initial response to reading about Stock and his huge library of pornography was to seize upon the connection between the ownership of dirty magazines and the commission of criminal acts as a justification for the proposed new legislation, but I realized this was rather poor logic. Indeed, the link has not been proven and insofar as there are any significant studies, they seem to prove the opposite. People who indulge their outlandish fantasies through lewd material seem less likely to act out their peculiar tastes. I should think it more likely that they will turn to criminal acts if the Government blocks these more benign ways of indulging fantasies.

My own reaction to child pornography is a gut one and that is a feeling of utter revulsion. But the gut is a fine organ for the digestive process, less so for cerebral ones. If one accepts that producing and distributing filthy magazines is illegal, I suppose it is consistent to make the possession of them illegal as well. But whenever society decides that for some moral consideration it has a right to outlaw a particular human impulse, I get very uneasy no matter how much I personally may dislike the impulse in question.



BARBARA AMIEL

Mr John Patten, Minister of State at the Home Office, feels he is standing on very firm ground when it comes to this issue and asserts that by making possession of child pornography an offence punishable by fines of up to £2,000, one strikes at the very *raison d'être* for its production. I am highly sceptical. Child pornography is produced because some people have a need to look at it. This need and its satisfaction will not be extinguished by Patten's prohibitions any more than homosexuality or the craving for the high has ever been extinguished by legislation. Human desires are largely indifferent to fines, although any instinct can be curbed by sufficiently draconian measures.

As for the more forceful argument in this matter, which is the need to prevent the use of children as models in these magazines and videos — I wonder if this could not be remedied in a slightly different way? One is revolted at the idea of children posing for pornographic pictures, but while the use to which the pictures may be put in someone's mind is abhorrent, I can't really see that simply photographing a child exploits him. One has no doubt that hard-core child pornography exists, but it seems to me that those people who favour the prohibition of anything most often turn to extreme examples to justify their cause, even though once the prohibition is in place it can embrace pretty innocuous cases — or in the case of censorship, even worthwhile works. Perhaps more limited legislation, narrowing the definition of pornography to simulated sexual acts or brutality of any sort, might be a solution.

In the end, I suppose I dislike all legislation like this proposed new amendment to the Criminal Justice Act, because it is legislation against an essentially victimless crime. The living child exists only in the paedophile's mind. Legislating against a state of mind and people's individual sexual fantasies seems to me tyrannical. In the era of permissiveness, prostitutes plied their wares, homosexual behaviour was glamorized and magazines lauded fantasy and experimentation. Now, after the tyranny of the libertines, the pendulum is swinging back to the tyranny of the conservatives. I think it would be rather a relief to have no tyranny in this area at all.

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TIMES DIARY

LORD ST JOHN OF FAWSLEY

The Royal Fine Art Commission's independent architectural and educational trust, launched just before Christmas by the Prime Minister at our headquarters in St James's Square goes — I am happy to report — from strength to strength. Thanks to the Prime Minister's enthusiastic support we raised £500,000 that day (which I have worked out came to £20,000 a plate, as the Americans might put it, but not exactly McDonald's prices). Now the Wolfson Foundation has donated a princely £100,000 to the trust. Lord Wolfson is an ardent conservationist and our first project under this auspice will be to mount a conservation exhibition in London.

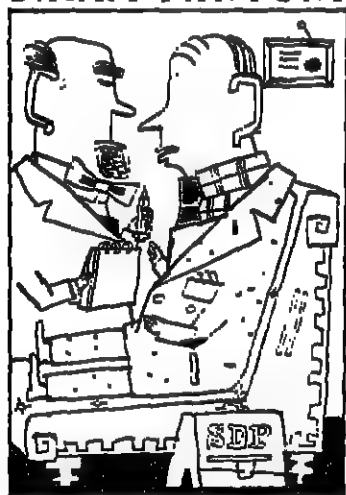
After its London sojourn the exhibition will take off and travel to different parts of the country. This project will fit in well with the trust's major preoccupation of raising standards of visual education in our schools. In the long run this is the only way of ensuring that the planners and businessmen of the future, taking the aesthetic decisions which will affect us all, have a sure foundation on which to base their judgments. The operation is being led by Dame Elizabeth Chesterton, whose planning monument is King's Lynn, and Mrs Johnny Nutting, who has a National Trust background. Mr Kenneth Baker, the Education Secretary, whose star rises ever higher, has given his full support, so we move forward full of hope for the future.

Spring, now beckoning us from a distance, is pre-eminently a time of hope and renewal. I am looking forward not only to seeing the plants flowering again but also to the stirrings in the animal kingdom. Not so far from home is a badger sett on the hillside, and these faithful and constant denizens tunnel away there year after year. Last year there was an amazing experience in late spring when three cubs emerged on their own for the first time and also caught their first glimpse of a human being. They, poor innocents, were in no way fearful or intimidated by the brave new world but played and snuffled together uninhibitedly until their mother appeared and wisely shepherd them back to the safety of their dwelling.

How can we tolerate the gassing of these gentle, beautiful and useful animals who play their part in keeping down a rising tide of rural pests? I have always been against capital punishment, but for such a crime I am tempted to admit an exception. When I was in the Cabinet and had an allocated official driver we invented a game to play on the way to engagements. The first one to see one of these charming creatures would cry out "badger" and so win sixpence.

The only drawback to this innocent recreation was that no badgers came into view and we had to substitute cats, though the call remained the same. I nearly always won since the driver quite rightly was keeping his eye on the road, and then at dusk one evening going through Milton Keynes of all places, we saw an enormous badger trotting fearfully along the roadside. We were both so amazed that we forgot to call out anything and after that we abandoned the competition. The point, if it ever had one, seemed to have gone.

BARRY FANTONI



"I'm not sure if I am the one in two or the one in three against"

This year sees the anniversary of two major historical events: the "glorious" Revolution and the defeat of the "invincible" Armada. Both are misnomers in their different ways. No one in 1688, from the cowardly and inept king to the self-seeking Whigs who dethroned their legitimate sovereign, behaved well, let alone gloriously. The Armada, like the "unsinkable" Titanic, was hubristically entitled and nemesis followed.

But this week there was a more cheerful event when a luncheon was held at the Cavalry and Guards Club, attended by the descendants of those who played a leading part in the drama on both sides. The event was a trailer for the great Armada exhibition which is to be opened by the Prince and Princess of Wales on April 20 at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich.

On Tuesday, the Drakes, the Froishers, the Effinghames, the Medina Sidonias and the Santa Cruz mingled happily together. The Spaniards, as befits a grand people with a sense of history, take a relaxed view of these long past excitements. Furthermore, the catalogue to the exhibition has rehabilitated them by insisting that it was not the British but the weather which was responsible for the defeat. Mr Richard Ormond, the director of the museum, disposed of the controversy deftly: "At any rate it was our weather."

Many historians, who should know better, perpetuate the myth that Lord Howard of Effingham, the British commander-in-chief, was a Catholic, when in fact he was a mild Anglican. Doubtless they have been misled by the Norfolk connection. Not all the Dukes of Norfolk have been as loyal to Rome as the present one. The 11th Duke, for one, wishing to play a part in the legislature before Catholic emancipation, conformed to the Establishment and on being reproached by a devout friend for this apostasy gave a splendid riposte: "If a man is to go to the devil, he may as well go there from the House of Lords as from any other place." I say "Amen" to that, but the 17th Duke of Norfolk and the Duke of Norfolk *manque* both hope to go to heaven in God's good time.

In 1981, prior to the Alliance, we had a Liberal Party containing a number of social democrats, plus a newly formed Social Democratic Party. In 1988, after merger, we have the Social and Liberal Democrats containing a considerable preponderance of Liberals, and there will shortly be a newly formed Social Democratic Party. In the meantime two general elections have entrenched Thatcherism, demoralized Labour and dispirited the Alliance.

It is perhaps part of the essence of Liberal generosity to assist one's potential challengers. In 1903 the Liberal Party ensured that the newly formed Labour Representation Committee gained a score or so of seats at the subsequent general election, while in 1981 it assisted the SDP to postpone the obsequies for social democracy that David Steel and other Liberals had regularly predicted. Now there is a return of sorts to 1981, with the newly formed party starting around 6 per cent lower in the polls than the Liberals stood on their own in February of that year.

The SLD's first task, and its

Michael Meadowcroft measures the task facing the new SLD party

In search of lost fervour

major problem, will be to excite enthusiasm among its actual and potential membership. Being worthy and middle-of-the-road will bring a respectable vote at an election but it will not win commitment from those whose sacrificial work day in and day out earns that extra tranche of votes that is the difference between winning and doing well. Activists do not have a monopoly of influence in a party but without them a party can have no local inspiration or campaigning zeal.

Inevitably the party's leader is going to shape its style and image even more than would be the case in a well established party. Whoever takes it on will have to bear a heavy load. He or she must not only be the authentic public face of the party but also, given the trauma of the recent

months, inspire trust and confidence within the party. Above all the leader needs to have come through the ranks and to know and understand party machinery. The worryingly high abstention in the members' ballots is an indication of the doubts that many have. Some will join in hope, others, including myself, wait to be won. The character of the party leader will be influential in building unity.

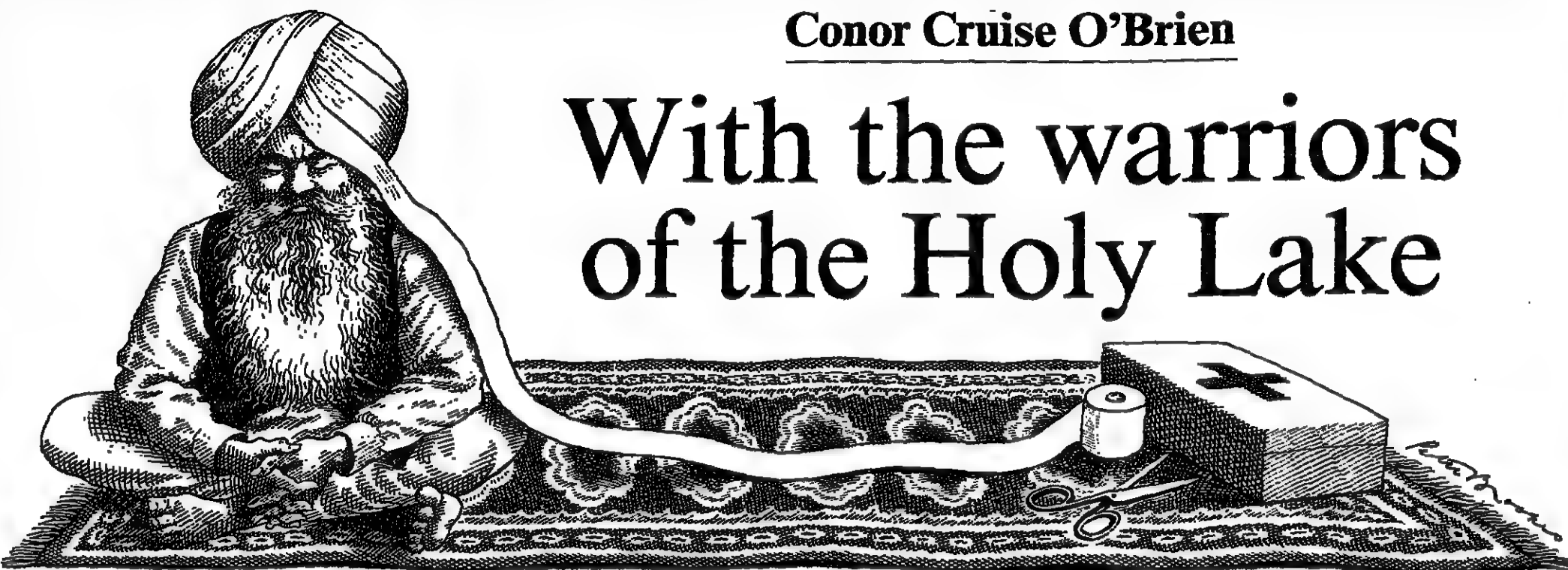
The first party assembly this September is bound to be a crucial occasion not only in terms of its content but even more of its style. If it is too structured and is fearful of dissent it will alienate many Liberals who are regarding this first key occasion as a litmus test of whether they feel comfortable in its ranks. There is a wide consensus that the more deliberative process of formulating policy can be an improvement over the past, but if that process is used to railroad the party it will have considerable repercussions.

Alongside the party's processes the newly formed Liberal Movement (a network to hold together the radical wing of the Liberal Party) will be applying a radical Liberal focus to current issues and applying Liberal values to the current political agenda in a way which the Alliance years have frustrated so fatally. Freed from the constraints of the past seven years, and with the luxury of a much less formal structure, the Liberal Movement will at least give the new party much to ponder. If it succeeds it will be a valuable spur to the party.

In the midst of an interminable and remarkably directive constitution there is one omission which, on the face of it, is rather strange. Although there are model rules for local parties and virtually everything else that can move, there is no requirement as such for these to be implemented by every affiliate local organization. The reason for this is quite simple: most, if not all, of the present Liberal MPs know full well that to have survived successfully for so long is due to the remarkable attachment of their electors to the Liberal Party, and to the MP as the local embodiment of that party, against all the odds.

Therefore in these seats to suggest such weakness as to require the wholesale changing of the local name and the transformation of the local campaigning style could well be suicidal. Rightly the MPs are disinclined to risk it. David Steel himself said on the BBC's *The World This Week* that "at the next election I shall appear as a Liberal for that is what I am". The constitution carefully gives a nod and a wink to flourish and it has even been peddled as a means of bringing more of us in. In other words, affiliate and continue as before where that is electorally beneficial.

In the immediate future it will be what happens in each local seat that will determine whether the new party can draw in previous Liberal members and those Social Democrats not going to David Owen. In the longer term the national image will attract or repel, but with local elections on May 5 I do not know a single Liberal — whether or not they are formally joining — who is not going full pelt to make sure that their local colleagues win. The lure of the election battle is too strong! It may yet exercise its fatal fascination for us all if the party does not try to crack the whip in ways which will be counterproductive. The author was formerly Liberal MP for Leeds West.



Conor Cruise O'Brien

With the warriors of the Holy Lake

You may travel the whole way from Delhi to the outskirts of Amritsar, along India's Grand Trunk Road, without seeing a trace of military or paramilitary activity. On both sides of the road are fields of ripening wheat, stretching as far as the eye can see, and interspersed with stands of poplar and eucalyptus. Both in the country and in the towns, the prosperity of the Punjab is everywhere evident. For many years the Punjab has had the highest income per head of all Indian provinces, and the margin continues to widen, despite the unrest. Nor is any unrest visible, until you get to Amritsar.

Amritsar is full of the armed police of the Indian government, checking vehicles and questioning drivers, passengers and pedestrians. The district of Amritsar has accounted for 60 per cent of terrorist violence in the Punjab over the past 10 months, and most other violence has occurred in the region just to the north of Amritsar, on the border with Pakistan.

Today, as in 1984, the focus of the trouble is the Golden Temple complex. The Indian police have a cordon around that complex and count and question all who go in and out. According to the count, some of them never come out. The worshippers, and the entire Sikh community, resent this police activity. Attendance at the Golden Temple has fallen

to a quarter of what used to be normal. Most Sikhs attribute this falling off to the police presence around the temple. But it is possible that the known presence of terrorist bands within the temple precincts may also have a deterrent effect on potential worshippers.

Inside the temple precincts, in the sunlit open spaces, the normal life of a Sikh religious centre is going on. A few of the faithful are bathing in the Holy Lake, in the centre of which is the Golden Temple itself. Others — old and young, men, women and children — are walking the spacious promenade which rings the Holy Lake, stopping to prostrate themselves at various shrines along the way. A public address system incessantly carries the words of the Sikh scriptures, the Granth Sahib. In the temple kitchens voluntary cooks prepare the *langar*, the meal which is offered free of charge to all who care to come. As far as all that goes, it is a pleasant and edifying scene.

In the parts of the temple complex that are accessible to the public, there is only one outward and visible sign of the presence and influence of terrorists within the temple precincts. This is a crude metal panel standing on the edge of the Holy Lake. The panel is covered with pictures, cut from the newspapers, of terrorists shot by the police. Above these pictures is a coloured picture of the last and

most warlike of the 10 Sikh Gurus: Guru Govind Singh.

The intended message of that panel, in that place, is clear: the Sikhs are presently fighting a holy war against the Indian government, and any Sikhs who fall in that war are martyrs of the Sikh religion. There is another message, whether intended or not: that the holy warriors are in control of the Golden Temple.

That panel, right by the Holy Lake, is an ugly object disfiguring a great complex which is otherwise harmonious and beautiful, and piously and competently maintained. The temple authorities would never have permitted such an eyesore as that panel, if they had been free to remove it. They are not free.

Technically and legally, the temple complex is under the control of a statutory body, the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC). This, established in 1925 under British law, is elective, the electorate consisting of all Sikhs (other than those deemed to have lapsed, through getting their hair cut, or in some other way).

The SGPC is the principal institution of the Sikh people, both in its religious and political aspects. And it is the SGPC which appoints the head-priests, *jethadars*, of the Golden Temple system.

Now, in this context, the expression "the Golden Tem-

ple" can be misleading. What is loosely called by that name is in fact a large complex built round a binary system of two co-equal temples, the Golden Temple itself and the Akal Takht. The Golden Temple was founded by the martyred Fifth Guru, before the Sikh religion became politicized and militarized. Accordingly, the Golden Temple, in itself, is pre-eminently about the spiritual aspect of the faith: *piri*.

The Akal Takht, on the other hand, was founded by the Sixth Guru, the militarizing Harbinder, and represents not only *piri*, but also *miri*, the political aspect. The Akal Takht is defined in an official publication of the SGPC as "the highest seat of the spiritual and temporal authority of the Sikhs".

It was in the Akal Takht that Sant Bhindranwale established his headquarters, and it was accordingly the Akal Takht that was destroyed by Indian artillery in 1984. The restoration of the building is now almost complete.

The SGPC has appointed two *jethadars*: one for the Golden Temple and one for the Akal Takht. The *jethadar* of the Golden Temple is still in place: *piri* by itself is uncontroversial in modern times. The Akal Takht, on the other hand, is the hot seat where politics combines with religion. The *jethadar* of the Akal Takht denounced the terrorists and had to leave the holy precincts in a hurry.

I met the spokesmen for the

SGPC at the temple. There were two of them, as is usual. One was a fat man with a luxuriant white beard, who seemed to represent the *piri* end of things. The other was a hard-faced, street-wise young man: about as *miri* as you can get. I asked about the *jethadar* who had gone.

Miri: He has not gone. *Miri*: Oh, is he here then? *Piri*: No, he is not here. But he has not gone.

So that seemed to settle that aspect. But what I really wanted to get through these official spokesmen, was access to representatives of the terrorists who control the temple precincts. A tricky question to put, in such a holy context, but I had learnt the acceptable formula. "I should like," I said, "to meet some of those engaged in voluntary religious activities (*kar seva*) in the temple complex."

Kar seva, in its *piri* aspects, includes such activities as cleaning the holy pool, and preparing food for the *langar*. But *kar seva*, in its *miri* aspects, includes the waging of holy war.

When I had put my question, the man with the beard looked at the ceiling, as if contemplating the mystical aspects of the divine concept of *kar seva*. But the young man said simply: "OK, come back tomorrow morning."

In the morning, I was brought to the office of the Panthic Committee, the umbrella organization for the five terrorist

groups which control the temple complex. The Panthic office is on the promenade of the Holy Lake, on the Akal Takht side. A small office, without tables or chairs: on the walls, photographs, one of Bhindranwale, one of a young man with a ston gun, and a coloured picture of the warlike Tenth Guru.

Sitting on the floor with his back to the wall was a man with a black turban and a long blue-black beard. He had a heavy grey blanket round his shoulders, though the room was not cold. His face was pale and emaciated; his eyes deep-sunken and lustreless; the features patrician. He looked like a man who knows he hasn't got long to live, and who doesn't much care how long others may get to live either.

This personage is Bhai Nirvar Singh, known to the Sikh world in general as *jethadar* of the Temple at Damdama, the fifth of the holy places of the Sikhs. But in the eyes of those whom the Panthic Committee represents, Nirvar is even more than that. He is the rightful successor to the *emigre jethadar* of the Akal Takht: successor to the man who hasn't gone, but isn't there.

As rightful *jethadar*-designate of the Akal Takht, in the eyes of his followers, Bhai Nirvar Singh is the highest personification on earth of the link between *miri* and *piri*: the hinge of the holy war of the pure, the Sikh *khalas*, against the government of India. "The pure will do power."

Commentary • ROBERT KILROY SILK

Better than Britain

Key West, Florida, was the place to be last week. It wasn't just that a friendly sun shone from a clear sky pushing the temperature into the 80s, though, if we're honest, it's always wickedly comforting when we've paid good money for a holiday in the warm to know that while we're relaxing in a gently rocking wicker chair on an open verandah, John Hersey's latest novel, *Blues*, in one hand and a fresh gin and tonic in the other, our compatriots are shivering in cold and snow at home. We want either just the fact of being able to swim every day in the clear relaxing water of the Gulf of Mexico and to explore its seemingly endless coral reef, that made this southernmost town of the United States so enticing. Nor was it that all this could be done in the company of friends. It helped, obviously. It's pleasant, there's no denying it, to sit on the quiet, private beach of Truman Capote's friend and biographer, John Malcolm Brin-in, and gossip about times past with Ernest Hemingway, and Tennessee Williams, and of the goings on at the urbane David Wolfowksky's Pier House Hotel, while watching the pelican wiles and dive into the sea not 10 yards away. It was a world away from the dark streets of London to be able to follow drinks at the Hersey's by a saunter through safe thoroughfares to eat hamburgers in the open air at the Cafe Exile on Duval Street.

But none of this was the reason Key West was the place to be. The real reason was that it showed, yet again, the different standards of our two countries, providing a sorry reminder of just how quickly we are falling into Third World status. The contrast starts at the

arrival of Miami's clean and efficient airport, is shown up by the smiling, solicitous immigration officer, courteously indicating the quickest route out of the building and the shortest queues, by the ebullient customs official gently shepherding the tired arrivals on to their next destination. Back in England the aliens are forced to join two long queues for admittance and are given no apology or explanation. When remonstrated with, the local official can say no more than that he's short of staff — and this in a country with over three million unemployed.

The difference is demonstrated yet again at the car hire office. The Florida clients are greeted by zealously helpful and efficient assistants rather than the surly indifference, the reluctance to help, the insistence on doing the minimum, the almost conspiratorial and certainly deliberate attempt to make each customer feel an intrusive and unwanted nuisance that is so often the case in shops in Britain. And the British? They arrive, some of them too drunk to drive. They are presumably the ones seen huddled together drinking beer and singing bawdy football songs at the back of the plane for most of the flight.

And Southern Florida is cleaner. The sea isn't polluted. You won't find raw sewage on its shores as you will on so many holiday beaches in Britain. There is no graffiti — not a scrap. And you'd have to look long and hard to collect enough litter to fill a wastepaper basket. There wasn't even one public telephone vandalized or out of order in Key West, not one. It's difficult in some parts of Britain to find any that work. All right,

so it's true, not all of America is like this, but most of it is. So, it's true, it's a richer country. But that's not the reason for their better standards of public cleanliness and courteous behaviour. It has to do with their different attitudes. They don't, to begin with, see it as degrading or demeaning to serve the public. They have no hang-ups, as do the British, that to serve is to be inferior, second class. They don't then become surly.

They also know that America is their country. It belongs to them. All their history, their teaching, ideology, literature and laws tell them so. The rules and the laws are made for them. Perhaps that's why they take more care of the environment. Britain, we know, doesn't belong to us. We don't know who it does belong to, but it's certainly not the people — that's why our laws treat us as nuisances and why America treats its people as citizens; that's why its government is open with its people and ours keeps secrets.

But most of all the Americans have an openness and generosity of spirit that contrasts so vividly with the meanness of spirit detected by David Hockney in the English. They look for solutions while we moan about problems; they seek and admire success whereas we detest and belittle it. All this helps to explain why they're on the move while we're withdrawing from the European space programme. Last week in confident Key West was a painful reminder of how much more there needs to be done if we're to stay in a civilized part of the world.

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The author was a Merseyside Labour MP, 1974-86.

SCIENCE REPORT

Getting warmer

Interlaken

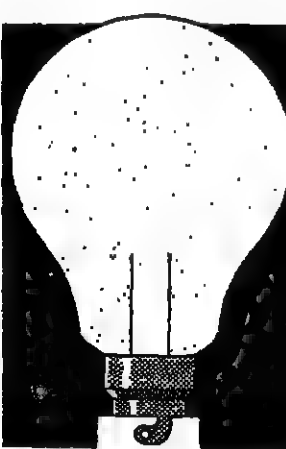
The temperature record for superconducting materials has been broken again. Dr Paul Grant of IBM's research laboratory at Almaden in California announced here on Tuesday the measurement of zero electrical resistance at the highest temperature yet: 148K (kelvin) or 125°C.

The announcement was a reward for those among 1,200 people from 22 countries attending a conference here who spent Wednesday evening crowded into a concert hall to hear reports of the latest research. What Grant says is particularly arresting because his material represents yet another class of superconducting oxides.

The discovery, by Z.Z. Sheng and M.A. Hearn of Arkansas University, that oxides containing the elements thallium, barium and copper can be superconducting, dates only from late January. Since then, they have shown that partly replacing barium by calcium allows the temperature to be increased. A report by them of zero electrical resistance at just over 100K will appear in next Thursday's *Nature*.

Grant's team heard of the Arkansas discovery only last week, and had reproduced it within a day. It took them only two more days to find a second superconductor, with a higher zero-resistance temperature, in the same chemical system.

This pace shows how competitive is the search for materials with zero electrical



Paul Bryant

resistance at ever-higher temperatures. After a year in which attention was focused on oxides containing rare-earth elements such as yttrium and lanthanum, the thallium compounds are the second group of new materials announced in just over a month.

In late January, a report from Hiroshi Maeda of Japan's National Research Institute for Metals described superconductivity in bismuth-calcium-strontium-copper oxide. Although the thallium compounds hold the temperature record so far, the bismuth compounds are not far behind and may be more promising for industry, if only because thallium is toxic.

There appear to be two closely-related versions of bismuth superconductivity with zero resistance at 85K and 110K. The crystal structures of both are similar, and re-

semble the yttrium superconductors in containing sheets of copper and oxygen atoms.

Comparison of these structures has strengthened hopes of finding more classes of superconductor in which copper oxide is the working material. During the past year, study of the rare-earth superconductors has suggested to some that the highest superconducting transition temperatures require both sheets of copper and oxygen atoms and interspersed linear chains of the same atoms. But now it is clear that the bismuth compounds much higher temperatures are possible with sheets of atoms alone.

The first copper oxide superconductors were discovered by the Zurich-based Bednorz and Müller in 1986. Based on the rare earth lanthanum, it had zero resistance below 40K, but this was superseded four months later by an yttrium-based material that superconducted below 90K. This allowed superconductors to be cooled with liquid nitrogen (which boils at 77K) rather than the much more expensive liquid helium. The goal is to find materials that superconduct at room temperature, thus avoiding cooling. But even if that is out of reach, the temperature increases now reported are important. The higher the zero resistance temperature above that of the cooling fluid the more effectively the new materials will function.

Laura Garwin

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WESTERN UNION

The Nato summit was more successful than expected. In public at least, the member nations displayed great unity of purpose and approach. Nearly 40 years since its inception, and surrounded by a world which has much changed, the alliance could hardly have asked for more from its heads of government.

President Reagan won an endorsement for his arms control targets, including a 50 per cent cut in strategic weapons, and support for his INF treaty — "a milestone" as the communiqué put it. He responded by promising to keep American troops in Europe for as long as they were needed.

For Chancellor Helmut Kohl there was the expressed desire to "overcome the unnatural division of the European continent" and "uphold the freedom and viability of Berlin". For Mrs Thatcher, the acknowledgement of Mr Gorbachov's glasnost policies was coupled to a reminder of the Soviet Union's "massive" military forces — "a fundamental source of tension between East and West". For President Mitterrand of France, there were reassurances over Europe. For the Scandinavians, there was much talk of peace. And for Nato's military leaders, there was a pledge to keep their forces up to strength. The final communiqué had something in it for everyone.

Students of semantics might decide that its greatest achievement lay in finding a way round that provocative word "modernization". By agreeing to keep nuclear weapons "up to date", it avoided embarrassing Chancellor Kohl, while satisfying the requirements of nuclear powers like the United States and Britain.

Those who drafted the communiqué, and the heads of government who signed it, could be accused of papering over a fissure in alliance policies. That is probably to over-dramatize the argument. But to many West Germans, "modernization" of nuclear weapons conjures up a vision of their country turned into a nuclear battlefield. At the same time, the need to update short-range nuclear weapons stationed on Federal Republic territory is clear

enough — and those countries, like Britain and the US, which hold such weapons will update them anyway. German *Angst* is very much part of the post-INF phase — and Nato has needed a formula to get past this present difficulty.

A more positive achievement, however, was reflected by the presence there of President Mitterrand — the first time a French President has attended such a meeting since General de Gaulle withdrew from the military command structure in 1966. This also is partly a product of the INF treaty, which has increased French suspicion of American intentions.

Whatever the cause, the strengthening relationship between France and Nato is among the most notable achievements in the 1980s. While a French return to full membership looks unlikely, the improvement in defence co-operation between France and Britain and, more conspicuously, between France and Germany, should generally encourage confidence in Nato's future.

Unity is not necessarily an end in itself. There remain important decisions for the alliance to make in respect of military priorities in a changing world. While the threat of a full-scale Soviet invasion of Central Europe cannot be ignored, it does not loom as large as it did. In such circumstances, it is necessary for the alliance not only to underline its unity, but also to review defence priorities — which in some cases have not been changed for more than three decades.

A comprehensive military review is not a job for a meeting of heads of government. But they need to give guidance to the military command. It is at least a consideration they should make before too long. A succession of internal arguments and doubts has prompted Nato into a posture of self-defence — content only to hold itself together in one piece. But between now and its 40th anniversary, the member governments might do well to initiate a fresh study of its priorities. The greatest achievement of this summit may be that it has provided a sure foundation on which, if necessary, to rebuild.

RIGHT TURN IN THE TRANSVAAL

Last week President Botha sowed the wind; this week he reaped a small hurricane. On Wednesday, displaying a fine disregard for his repressive skills, voters in two Transvaal by-elections, gave Dr Andries Treurnicht's Conservative Party its expected victory. The high turn-out and greatly increased Conservative majorities spelled the failure of Mr Botha's last-minute gambit on behalf of the National Party.

It was easy to understand why Mr Botha felt the need to woo the far right by attempting to stamp out the last vestiges of black political dissent. It was equally predictable that his suit would fail. By allowing his fear of the right to dictate his actions, he allowed Dr Treurnicht — and the brown-shirted members of the avowedly racist Afrikaner Resistance Movement — to claim the dubious credit for deeds which not only failed to reassure the voters of Standerton and Schweizer-Reinecke, but brought upon him the odium of the world.

By closing down the United Democratic Front and 16 other black organizations a week before the by-elections, the South African President allowed the Conservative Party to set his agenda. He thus endowed its views with an insidious respectability — something which was not lost on the voters.

It has long been argued that Mr Botha's elevation of the African National Congress to South Africa's Public Enemy No 1 immeasurably enhanced its international status. Last week, in bowing to right-wing demands, he performed a similar service within South Africa for the forces of the white right. The confident authority with which the egregious Mr Eugene Terreblanche addressed his weekend rally of neo-Nazi followers probably owed much to Mr Botha's pusillanimous attempt to placate his right-wing critics.

This is not the first time that Mr Botha has

swelled the ranks of the right in a misguided attempt to woo back the National Party's lost tribes. In last year's white general election he played on white fears so effectively that many voters decided that Dr Treurnicht was a better guardian of white security. The result was the destruction of the liberal Progressive Federal Party and the elevation of the Conservative Party to the status of the official Opposition. Now, having once again acted as Dr Treurnicht's unwitting election agent, Mr Botha will have to resign himself to the fact that the forces of the right will grow further.

In view of the demographic and geographic divisions of modern Afrikanerdom, it is doubtful whether the Conservative Party will ever muster enough support to move on to the government benches in Cape Town's Parliament. Courtesy of Mr Botha, however, it now has a major voice in dictating the course and the pace of political developments in South Africa.

In the past week it has chalked up some remarkable achievements. It has stimulated the international debate about sanctions just as it was starting to subside and increased the chances that South Africa will be isolated further. It has fanned the flames of black protest and quenched the new realism which was beginning to emerge in black politics. It has also launched Mr Botha on a possible collision course with the Church which could undermine his authority.

This weekend, as he reflects on the results of the by-elections and contemplates further defeats in the local elections later this year, the South African President probably believes he did too little too late to assuage the fears of the right. He might be better advised to muse on the African fable according to which the only thing gained from feeding the crocodile is a bigger crocodile.

LOANS FOR LEARNING

The way student grants are paid at present is an untidy product of overlapping ambitions, including the very expensive one of paying for young people to leave their parental home at one end of the country in order to study at ancient universities and plate-glass polytechnics at the other. Generous conditions intended for one set of institutions (the small number of universities that existed in the later 1950s) were applied almost automatically to another (the several hundred institutions now offering degrees), and a scheme devised in an age when adulthood began at 21 has lingered into an age when 18-year-olds are adults and their parents unwilling or unable to support their studies.

Over the 1980s, as economy became the order of the day, the Treasury has succeeded in reducing the value of grants. But the value has been cut without any measure being taken of the balance that ought to exist between the private and public contribution to the costs of higher education or the place of student support in the financing of higher education. Student finance is long overdue for reform.

Now, at last, the log jam seems to be breaking up. The government review of loans under Mr Robert Jackson, the Minister for Higher Education, seems to be proposing a £1,000 loan to be offered in parallel with the grant. Students' anomalous eligibility for housing benefit will also be tidied away.

Yet the plan still appears to be an uneasy compromise. The total sum required to finance the new system should be low enough to be acceptable to the Treasury. At £1,000 maximum per student, however, it is unlikely to be high enough to appeal to those students who might — whatever the misgivings of their spokesmen — be most inclined to take it up. The same money, and more, is frequently

offered to students by banks in the form of an overdraft or personal loan.

Introducing the principle of low-interest loans for students is valuable in itself. So poorly funded a loan scheme, however, will carry little conviction. It is to be hoped that a larger initial outlay will be agreed, so that loans will be available not just to top-up the present inadequate grants, but also — in time — largely to replace them. Once the initial investment in a loan fund has been made, it should be possible for a scheme to pay for itself.

For a system of loans to function well, however, the objectives must be clear to all parties. Loans can be advocated on several grounds, one of the most persuasive being that they effect a fairer balance between the personal benefit gained by students from their degrees and the public good inherent in advanced study. They also release students, who at 18 are legally adults, from continued financial dependence on their parents and help to minimize the disadvantage suffered by those whose parents cannot or will not subsidize their studies.

But reforming student support by introducing a loan element opens another attractive possibility: it could allow universities and colleges to recoup a larger share of their funding from consumers of their services — students. A loan, repayable over time, ought to make students more conscious than they are at present of the choice of course and institution they make. They would thus be encouraged to take their money (for it is ultimately their money) to the institution offering the most attractive prospect. Universities and colleges charging the full cost of their student tuition would be forced — as higher education does in the United States to its great benefit — to work in a market.

A fresh perspective on Europe

From Professor Geoffrey Lee Williams

Sir, In his perceptive piece ("Startling and snoring to 1992", February 27) Richard Owen urges the Government to make clear that EEC laws are devised not by some alien power called "Brussels" but by complex mechanisms involving Civil Servants, ministers and Euro-MPs from all 12 states, Britain included.

Mr Owen rightly asks, however, that this complex process should be subject to democratic control exercised by national parliaments or by increasing the powers of scrutiny in the European Parliament.

It is easy to agree with this proposition, but the problem facing the EC is only in part one of democratic accountability. It is much more a question of the attitudes of national administrators, ministers, and interest group leaders concerned with the detailed form of EC policies which are likely to encourage or inhibit action favourable to integration, as envisaged in the Single European Act.

As Richard Owen observes, the British psychology is not helpful in this respect. This is possibly made worse by Mrs Thatcher's evident intention to remove Lord Cockfield when his appointment as Vice-President of the European Commission comes up for renewal at the end of the year. Clearly Mrs Thatcher has no clear strategy towards the EC to match her clear-headed attitude towards Nato's strategy in the wake of the INF (intermediate-range nuclear forces) treaty.

Mrs Thatcher should bring her considerable interest in the future defence and security of Europe to include the EC's part in developing a more efficient — and more competitive — European armaments industry. It is vital to know where the Government stands on the issue of the construction of a European armaments market arising from the implementation of the Single European Act.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY LEE WILLIAMS,
Director,
INSTEP (Institute of Political and Economic Studies) Cambridge,
Warwick House,
Warwick Terrace,
Cambridge.

From Professor Emeritus G. Jones
Sir, It was sad enough to see Mr Cottrill, a British Euro-MP and Conservative to boot, expressing fundamentally anti-Communist opinions (February 26). But what cannot be allowed to pass without comment is the inaccuracy of the facts with which he

attempts to support his opinions.

"The much-vaunted Single European Act... concentrates even more power in the hands of the Commission" — which he describes as "the unelected bureaucrats of Brussels" — "at the expense of the Council of Ministers." Because, Mr Cottrill continues, "the Parliament remains effectively shackled by its inability to control the executive".

Thus Mr Cottrill believes, or wants your readers to believe, that the Commission is the supreme executive which neither the European Parliament nor the Council of Ministers can control.

This is monstrously incorrect. In the present triangular institutional arrangement of the Community, it is the Council of Ministers which is the Commission or the Parliament. And it is the Council of Ministers which is explicitly protected by the Treaty of Rome from control by the European Parliament, the only and truly representative European institution. The Council of Ministers is inter-governmental, and as such is responsible, or rather each of the Ministers in that Council is responsible, to the Government and Parliament of the state concerned.

Surely Mr Cottrill ought to know that it is in the lack of real control by the Parliament over the executive (the Council of Ministers) that the constitutional anomaly lies, and therefore the danger to European democracy. Yours etc,
G. IONESCU (President,
Research Committee on European Unification),
International Political Science Association,
London School of Economics and Political Science,
Houghton Street, WC2.

From Mr John Browne, MP for Winchester (Conservative)
Sir, In 1992 we shall see the birth of a single European economy and the possibility of a single European currency. May I suggest to your readers a name for such a currency.

The first great unifier of Europe was Charlemagne. In the Germanic languages he is known as Karl der Grosse. May I suggest that we call our new currency the Karl. As a single syllable it would be easily understood and pronounced. Furthermore, in its shortened form, "K", it would be unique amongst monetary notations and in keeping with the manner in which the other two major world currencies, the US dollar (\$) and the Yen (¥) are denoted. Yours faithfully,
JOHN BROWNE,
House of Commons.

Run out of steam?

From Mr Brian Alderson

Sir, Professor Pollard's regret that *Thomas the Tank Engine* did not appear among the 50 "books children should read" (Spectrum, February 19) will confirm for some that our educational establishment is still in the hands of Reaction. Did not Professor Pollard know that the "Engine" books by the Rev W. Awdry are deemed by some of his professional colleagues to have a congruence with "the ideology... of the New Right"?

Indeed, not only do they endorse "traditional conservatism", in contrast to "conflict-ridden contemporary Britain", but through their hierarchical treatment of rolling-stock from historic locomotives to "not respectable" domeless engines) and through the passive roles given to the female railway carriages, they also perpetuate the abhorred traditional distinctions between classes and sexes.

These remarks come from an essay on the books by two academics, one from Newcastle University, one from Leicester Polytechnic. They were published last year in *Children's Literature in Education*, a journal whose English editorial team is centred at the School of Education at Exeter University.

So, when the Fat Controller is finally defeated, Thomas may expect to go and join Dr Dollittle in some distant, forgotten siding. Yours faithfully,
BRIAN ALDERSON,
28 Victoria Road,
Richmond, North Yorkshire.

Doubts on GCSE

From Mr M. J. Roberts

Sir, I commend and fully endorse your apposite comments (February 25) on the new GCSE examination. I would however add the following points of additional concern:

1. An adequate supply of appropriate books and materials is still not available for the examination.
2. Pupils are struggling to produce anything up to 40,000 words of "original" coursework. For those unlikely to obtain at least a grade C there is little motivation for such a volume of work and a

substantial number have already made up their minds not to enter.

3. The one "exam for all" philosophy is torn in shreds by the plethora of differentiated papers. 4. If, as numerous sources differing examination boards will establish, a pass rate varying between 38 per cent and 63 per cent the ensuing regional lottery would be quite unsustainable and a cause of even greater national concern.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL J. ROBERTS
(Secretary, Secondary Heads Association, (Gwent)),
Queen's School,
Queen's Hill, Newport, Gwent.

Trade with Taiwan

From the Chairman of the British Knitting & Clothing Export Council

Sir, On a recent sales trip to the Republic of China (Taiwan) I was disappointed to find that Britain has no diplomatic presence in this rapidly-growing economy with a trade surplus of \$70 billion to spend.

The Anglo-Taiwan Trade Council does a quietly effective job, but the lack of at least a consul places Britain at a serious commercial disadvantage in comparison with its major competitors, the Germans and Italians, not to mention the Japanese. Their resident diplomats are all helping to win business for their respective countries.

Now that agreement over Hong Kong has been reached, and even the Taiwanese are able to visit mainland China, is it not time for the Foreign Office to update the rest of its Far Eastern policy? Yours faithfully,
BARRY REED,
British Knitting & Clothing Export Council,
British Apparel Centre,
7 Swallow Place, W1.

Community charge

From Mrs D. B. Gammer

Sir, Mr Loveridge (February 24) expresses concern at the effect the new community charge will have upon the price of more expensive houses. He is right to do so — but the effect will be wider than merely increasing prices. It will reduce the total housing stock of the country.

As people grow older they tend to cling to the familiar. The prospect of sorting out the debris of, say, 20 years of happy family rearing is daunting, both physically and emotionally. "Empty nesters" find it difficult to envisage a future in smaller quarters. Every stick of furniture that has to be sold takes memories away with

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Teaching of law 'on the cheap'?

From Professor S. M. Cretney, FBA

Sir, It is good to see your report (February 27) of the legal profession's willingness to contribute to the development of university education in this country. Institutions such as the Bodleian Law Library, in Oxford, and the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies in London provide evidence of what the private and corporate benefactor can do. But there are serious problems preventing law schools from contributing to meeting the nation's needs for trained lawyers. The solution of these problems requires action which only Government and public sector agencies can take.

First, the UGC (University Grants Committee) effectively controls the number of British students we are allowed to admit. Every year we are compelled to turn away many hundreds of students who want to study law, and who are manifestly well qualified to do so. It can be little comfort to tell such students, some of whom will have obtained the highest possible A-level grades, that they would have no difficulty in finding a university place to read less relevant subjects (incidentally often at far higher cost to the taxpayer).

The UGC has evidently found difficulty in responding to changing patterns of student and national need. We must hope that these new universities' funding body will be more successful in that respect.

Secondly, the UGC has consistently treated law as a subject which can be taught "on the cheap", and the resources allocated to each law student are far lower than in other subjects. It is difficult to refute the reasons which presumably underlie these decisions, since the UGC has consistently refused to reveal them.

Thirdly, policies on university

Roman amphitheatre

From Mr Anthony Haigh

Sir, In December, 1954, the European Cultural Convention was signed on behalf of the member governments (the Government of the United Kingdom among them) of the Council of Europe.

This Convention expressed the idea that each signatory government had a responsibility to safeguard and encourage the development of its national contribution to the common cultural heritage of Europe; to regard the objects of European cultural value placed under its control as integral parts of this common cultural heritage; and to safeguard these and ensure reasonable access to them.

It appears that the newly-discovered Roman amphitheatre in London (report and photograph, February 29), is to be allowed to disappear under a new building. If this is allowed to happen, will the Government of the United Kingdom have fulfilled its obligations under the European Cultural Convention? I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
ANTHONY HAIGH,
The Furnace,
Crowhurst,
Nr Battle, East Sussex,
March 1.

London's traffic

From Mr Peter R. Rogers

Sir, Derek Gordon's indignation (February 27) at having to pay over £1 a week to park his car outside his own front door raises an interesting point. There is a growing myth that those who wish to own personal transport, but lack either the desire or wherewithal to provide off-street parking, have a right to be able to use the highway for that purpose. Even in rural Nottinghamshire it costs me more than £5 a week to garage my car off the highway.

Those who use roads for long-term parking inconvenience other road users, yet enjoy subsidised parking. Free stabling for personal conveyances was not expected prior to the motor era! Yours faithfully,
P. B. ROGERS,
274 Mansfield Road,
Workshop, Nottinghamshire,
February 27.

Heat and kitchen

From Mr Alexander Wright

Sir, Instead of the traditional culinary inquiry, "What's cooking dear?", it would probably be more appropriate to ask, "What's thawing darling?"

Food for thought... or the microwave. Yours faithfully,
ALEXANDER WRIGHT,
Helensbourne,
East Saint Helens,
Abingdon-on-Thames,
Oxfordshire.

teachers' pay and conditions of service have become totally unrealistic; and, sadly, the Government seems uninterested in the effect of market forces on the recruitment and retention of highly-qualified staff who possess skills which are valued in industry and the professions. In this context it is particularly difficult to understand the Government's determination to abolish "leave" and thereby to remove one of the few demonstrable advantages of academic life.

Yours faithfully,
S. M. CRETNEY (Chairman,
Committee of Head of University Law Schools),
University of Bristol,
Faculty of Law,
Wills Memorial Building,
Queens Road,
Bristol, Avon,
February 27.

THE TIMES

ON THIS DAY

March 4 1974

"Scoop" and "Exclusive" rarely justify these appellations. The dispatch below an exception; it was written by Peter Hopkirk, a Times reporter, who was on board the hijacked aircraft

[TIMES MAN ON HIJACKED VC10]

Amsterdam, March 3.

Ninety-two passengers from a hijacked British Airways VC10 ran for their lives from the aircraft at Schiphol airport to-night moments before it went up in flames. Minutes later, as Dutch firemen and police, and troops in tanks, cautiously approached it, the aircraft appeared to blow up...

The passengers had no idea of what was happening until one man rose to his feet with an automatic pistol and pointed it down the gangway at them...

But the passengers became extremely apprehensive when he — still threatening them with his pistol — began to unpack high explosives and fuses which somehow he and his companion had secreted among their luggage...

Meanwhile, to the dismay of the passengers, many of whom were beginning to show their fears, the hijacker in the cabin began to collect bottles of duty-free whisky from the aircraft bar. These he smashed, splashing the whisky on to the carpet for the whole length of the aircraft as well as on the seats where he had planted high explosives.

Then the hijackers ordered the passengers to remove their shoes and step into the gangway holding their shoes above their heads. Several times the hijacker in the cabin went over to his explosive charges to check them. The aircraft was filled with the fumes of whisky.

Suddenly word went round that the passengers were to leave the aircraft in single file by the front emergency exit, where a chute had been put down. Within four minutes everybody was out and running as fast as possible from what they knew would become a blazing inferno at any second...

Sensing that it was safe to approach [the hijackers], although they were still holding their automatic pistols, I walked back along the runway to where they stood. I asked them whether the aircraft, which by now was blazing, was likely to blow up.

"You don't want to kill innocent firemen, do you?" I asked the one who spoke a little English. He shrugged his shoulders. I asked him how long it would be before the VC10 blew up. He looked at his watch and said: "About two minutes." I ran to a police vehicle and told them to warn the firemen.

Then I walked down the runway from the blazing aircraft between the two hijackers, who gave their names as Abu Said and Abu Ali. When I asked them where they lived, they said they were from Palestine.

I persuaded one of them to empty his automatic pistol and hand me the magazine. For some reason, although it was now unloaded he would not hand over the pistol itself.

His bearded companion — the one who had remained with the crew during the flight — refused to give me his pistol. As we walked down the runway, I asked them why they had done this.

The bearded one said: "During the November war American aircraft flew from Heathrow Airport across the Egyptian sea and spied on the Egyptian forces." He would not add anything to this.

In the confusion several vehicles sent by the airport authorities to pick up the passengers, who by now were spread all over the runway walking vaguely towards the terminal half a mile away, stopped to try to pick us up. Clearly they assumed that my two hijacker companions were ordinary passengers.

Finally, a Dutch police car containing two armed officers came up and I was able to tell them quickly who the two men were. By this time another Dutchman, a civilian, working near by was talking to the two hijackers. This enabled me to slip away and explain the situation to the two officers...



BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS	
BIRTHS	
ANDREWS - On February 1, at George's Lodge, 100 Parkers Avenue, St. Albans, a daughter, Mrs. M. J. Andrews.	
ARMSTRONG - On February 1, at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Armstrong, 100 Parkers Avenue, St. Albans, a daughter, Mrs. J. H. Armstrong.	
BIRD - On February 1, at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Bird, 100 Parkers Avenue, St. Albans, a daughter, Mrs. J. H. Bird.	
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CLARK - On February 1, at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Clark, 100 Parkers Avenue, St. Albans, a daughter, Mrs. J. H. Clark.	
COOPER - On February 1, at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Cooper, 100 Parkers Avenue, St. Albans, a daughter, Mrs. J. H. Cooper.	
DAVEY - On February 1, at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Davey, 100 Parkers Avenue, St. Albans, a daughter, Mrs. J. H. Davey.	
DEAN - On February 1, at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Dean, 100 Parkers Avenue, St. Albans, a daughter, Mrs. J. H. Dean.	
FERGUSON - On February 1, at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Ferguson, 100 Parkers Avenue, St. Albans, a daughter, Mrs. J. H. Ferguson.	
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ROBERTS - On February 1, at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Roberts, 100 Parkers Avenue, St. Albans, a daughter, Mrs. J. H. Roberts.	
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HOT TICKETS

FOR SUMMER CONCERTS

BALLET, DANCE

THEATRE

OPERA

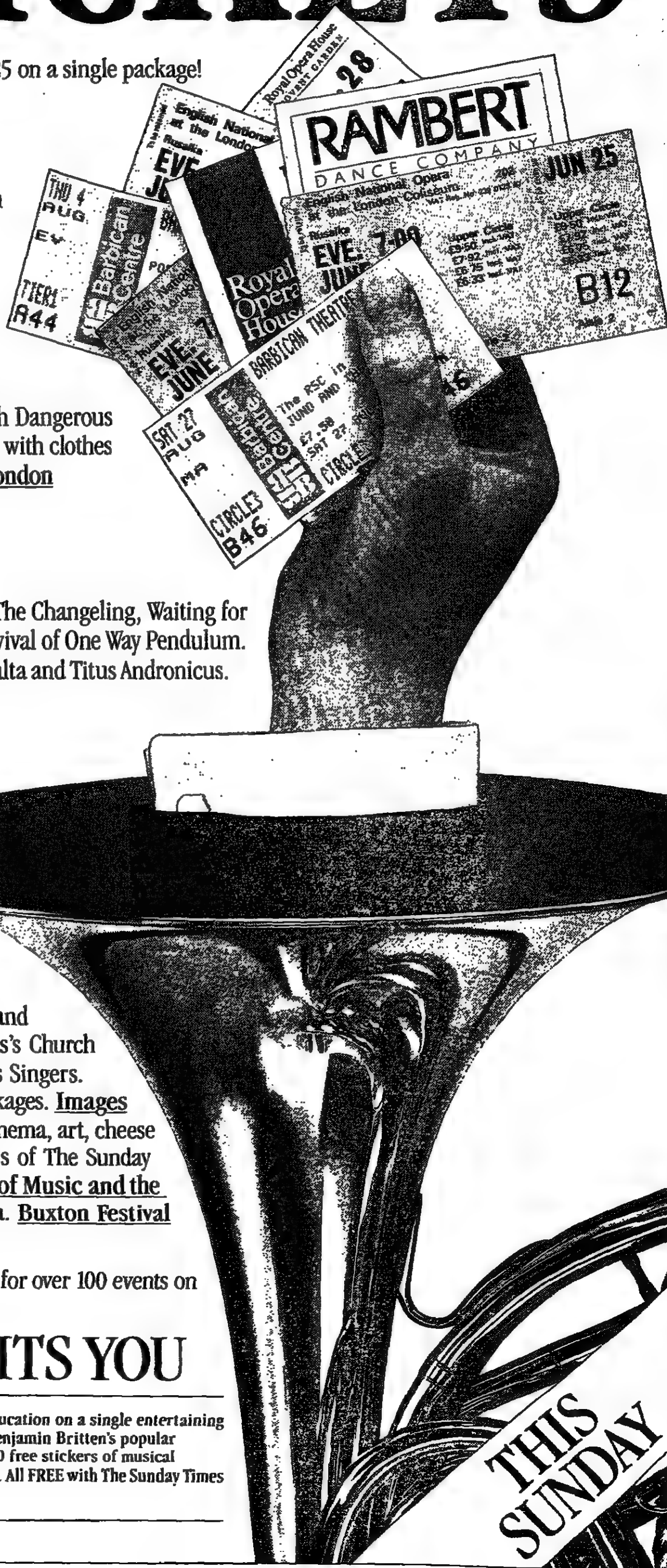
FILMS & FESTIVALS

THIS SUMMER FEAST AWAITS YOU

PLUS

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WALLCHART FREE**

An instant musical education on a single entertaining wallchart based on Benjamin Britten's popular composition – with 40 free stickers of musical instruments to collect. All FREE with The Sunday Times from this Sunday.



1. 4. 1971

صَكَا مِنْ الْإِهْل

THE ARTS

TELEVISION

Wonder woman

"My God this is exciting," "the heart soars," "the most delectable details" — the reporter was full of giggling girlish enthusiasm, as she took a road that does not always engender such delight in the rest of us: the A1. But have no fear, Lucy pulled it off again.

The Great North Road (BBC2) was Lucinda Lambton's third idiosyncratic programme for 40 Minutes, but she proved again that, though the plummy terms of her endorsement can occasionally irritate, there is still a place for that dying species, the Great British eccentric documentary-maker.

Eccentrics have a nose for other eccentrics. Lambton's singular style — Super Deb meets amateur scholar and explorer — was delightfully complemented by two deftly splendid old biddies.

She had got no further than the Horsley Road when she found a 74-year-old in her extraordinary surrealist fantasy of a terraced house. Lucy, of course, was enthralled, but the lady now longed only for the modern amenities of a flat she was moving to.

Much further north, Lucy encountered another priceless original, speeding around in an electric wheelchair in a perfectly preserved statue-filled Victorian mansion, where she has lived for the last 60 years. Again Lucy's delight was not to be matched by the occupant: "I don't care for the sentimentality of Victorian times. And some of them can be hellish sentimental."

A complete shot out of her blue-blooded past was the revelation that, in 1960 she had met the Every Brothers, at Kings Cross station and had travelled with them all night in a railway carriage.

Even more of a shock was that when Lucy reached Edinburgh in the programme, there were the brothers to meet her. Whatever exactly it was that had gone on that night, no doubt its most delectable details made Lucy's heart soar and her to exclaim "My God, this is exciting!"

Andrew Hislop

No victory in bore war

THEATRE

Tales from a Long Room Lyric Studio, Hammersmith

You can see the attraction of rounding up Peter Tinniswood's two well-known characters — one the spirit of militant Surrey, the other embodying St Helens on a rainy half-closing day — and letting William Rushton loose on them: the archetypes of Southern and Northern prejudice corralled into a self-cancelling double bill.

It would have been fun for the Brigadier and Uncle Mort to have clashed face to face. But as the much-slimmed-down Rushton is not able to cut himself in half, what we get in Peter James's production is first one and then the

other: a division that rams home the fact that, among other things, they are a pair of crashing old bores — who, on this occasion, are left unopposed to trumpet their views to their respective stooges.

The Brigadier launches the evening with a joyous descent on the whisky decanter, celebrating his wife's departure, and then settles down to prolonged variations on the cricket joke. Sex, he claims, has permanently impaired his spinning finger; a match against a colonial pygmy team, played with shrunken heads, is lovingly recalled.

The spectre of Queen Victoria, sporting pads and a tartan box under her mourning weeds, arrives to set posterity straight on her batting average. She is extremely well played by Sam Kelly, who goes on to deliver a cricketer's sermon, which comes as a welcome diversion from the sound of the Brig booming on

about the need for male-female apartheid.

The lines are often very funny, but he has no theatrical pretext for speaking them.

Uncle Mort is much better company. It is only for the reason that something happens to him. Visited in his unsavoury bedroom by a dejected caddy, the pair take the bold Northern decision to stay in for the day, only to weaken at opening time and set off on a pub crawl that takes in a funeral, a death, and an exploding petrol station — at which point they reel off home.

Tinniswood takes the Northern stereotype of gloom and complaint to the point of animation and relish. The writing (particularly David Adams's scene-setting catalogues) remains fruitfully over-weight, but Rushton makes it dance.

Irving Wardle

Gogol à-go-go goes gaga

The Pixie Led Latchmere

As mortals led by the pixies lose their wits, so playwrights led by the impulse to write about the mad, risk losing their way — and losing their audience too, though a devoted audience at this cosy theatre found more than I did to laugh at and chapped each black-out as though it marked the end of an operatic aria.

For his first full-length play, Christopher Harris has bravely, or foolhardily, chosen to adapt a couple of Gogol stories set in a lunatic asylum, with three inmates and a doll for characters. The programme tells us that to counter the harsh reality of confinement they elaborate a rich fantasy world, and certainly the fantasies come indigestibly first in the first half.

Comments on the success

crisis in Spain are followed by an account of the supposed attempt by the painter Stubbs to educate game fowl, leading seamlessly on to an anecdote about a multilingual frog whose head explodes. There is only so much of this mental cannibalism one can take on the printed page and it is no easier to relish in the theatre.

When the Spanish question at last takes over as principal fantasy, middle-aged Rupert, a crazed astronomer, assumes the crown and the clergy Eric arranges his dynastic marriage with the slutish Agatha.

Two lunatics may collude in fugue but hardly three, and it is the woman who occasionally draws back from her images of rape and grandeur (the two going together) to mock the men's delusions.

The evening would be as grim as it probably sounds if it

were not that Julian Richards's alert, persuasive direction takes the cast into the grubby skin, emotional and physical, of the characters. The ensemble playing becomes truly impressive, bringing off contact shocks like a collage made up of a sponge, a velvet glove and a razor.

Norma West's slashing abuse points to the harsher pain of madness, whereas the benign battiness of P.J. Davidson's king has the gentleness of a Dickensian eccentric. Nigel Betts's verbal fluency belies his blockish appearance, and when the two men are together, the bumbling afterthoughts of the one and the frowning sorrow of the other, present a touching measure of minds forever gone astray.

Jeremy Kingston



Not shrinking from the memory: William Rushton, as The Brigadier, salutes a former opponent

Stage Door slammed

The Lizard King Boulevard

Jim Morrison, lead singer of The Doors, was a kind of rock Adonis: "I see myself as a huge fiery comet... everyone stops and gasps 'oh, look at that!'. Then whoosh, and I'm gone."

The self-mythologizing, fulfilled in his early death, is so clear that one would not think it was necessary to add to it. Perhaps Jay Jones, in this dire show about Morrison's last days in Paris, is trying to de-mythologize him, but the general effect is so lifeless and the control of tone so unsure, that it hardly seems to matter.

Among a whole range of non-functioning elements — character, plot, setting (it could be Paris, Texas for all the sense of place that John Quinn's production conveys) — language takes the biscuit.

All the characters talk in a parody of hard-boiled prose, crossed with the relentless alliterative gibberish of Alan Whickler.

Almost every utterance is prefaced by "hey, man", proceeds to use several words (or the same one several times) not printable in this newspaper, and culminates in something like "this isn't fat, it's a fame and fortune tremor". This is actually one of the best lines in the piece.

Morrison (Joseph Crilly) is distinguished from the others mainly by coughing a lot (a sure sign of early, artistic death), and bearing a marked resemblance to Bob Geldof, right down to the sallow swarthy and the Irish accent.

The difference between Bob Geldof and Jim Morrison may be indicative of the way things have changed since 1971. One certainly cannot see the self-

obsessed Morrison turning to anything as practical as fund-raising.

On the other hand, I suspect he was a more inspired artist than our Saint Bob. Jones's title provides a clue about the source of that inspiration:

Morrison said that "the lizard and the snake are identified with the unconscious and with evil. Sensuousness and evil is an image which attracts as right now, but think of it as a snake skin that will be shed sometime."

Morrison followed the fateful advice to plunge into the destructive element, and came up with some of the most exhilarating music of his time. You would never guess it from this depressing play, which is presented at a theatre which is part of the Raymond Revuebar, in Walker's Court, Brewer Street, Soho.

Harry Eyres

CONCERTS

Quietly intense

BBCSO-Zagrosk Festival Hall/Radio 3

Lothar Zagrosk is a welcome and increasingly regular visitor to the BBC Symphony Orchestra. Zagrosk's Mozart Requiem, which formed the evening's grand finale, was in the lean, febrile mould we are becoming used to, on disc if not quite so often in the concert hall. Its many attractions included string playing which at times barely touched the ground, a team of soloists (Joan Rodgers, Alfreda Hodgson, Anthony Rolfe Johnson and Gwynne Howell) whose varying intonations blended pleasingly, and a fluent and consistent use of German Latin.

Its excitement was generated by Zagrosk's pacing between and within movements. Fugal choruses, such as the Kyrie and Hosanna, dance with complex and minutely rehearsed patterns of light and shade; and if even the BBC Symphony Chorus seemed just a occasionally to be caught off their guard, by a quickening of pace or a corner of musical muscle too long left untuned, then little was lost.

Something of the same quiet intensity of thought had earlier marked Zagrosk's reading of Berg's Three Pieces from the Lyric Suite. At times it was difficult to believe the presence of a full body of strings on stage: the fine sifting and aerating of textures, the control of tone and half tone so that rhythm seemed both elusive and sharply defined, emphasized the work's genesis in string quartet form.

The audience's corporate ear had been tuned for this virtuosity of refinement by an enterprising performance of a Beethoven choral rite: his short, muted, Elegischer Gesang.

Hilary Finch

Baillie/Dussek Wignmore Hall

The cellist Alexander Baillie, whose talent was once the best-kept secret in British music, is now getting proper recognition. He presented a work new to London in this beautifully executed performance. The piece was Images of a mind by Adrian Williams, commissioned by the 1986 Presteigne Festival, and inspired by Sir Sydney Nolan's Self-Portrait.

Williams describes the painting as "sinister shadows of head and face", and in his cello and piano work (in which he played the piano part) there is certainly a fragmentary, nervous quality about the unsettled opening, the angular, Berg-like cello phrases, and scurrying sul ponticello motifs.

There are many distinguished precedents for writing music inspired by the visual arts, but the best ones do not simply reassemble a perceived "message" in a new medium. Music must assert its validity in purely musical terms. Here, it barely did.

The obvious move from turbulence towards a rather soporific tonality was presumably supposed to suggest the "inner vision" that fuels any creative struggle — but as a musical resolution it came across weakly.

For the rest of the programme, Baillie was partnered expertly by the pianist Michael Dussek. Richard Strauss's juvenile Sonata in F hardly foreshadows Elektra, but Baillie's light touch, superb intonation and admirably varied tonal resource made the most of the work's unrefined Schubertian lyricism.

Both pianist and cellist found a more ardently romantic vein in performances of Debussy and Chopin sonatas, after the interval.

John Percival

Richard Morrison

Exotic migrant

US saxophonist Jean Toussaint, (right) formerly of Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers, now living and teaching in London, talks to Clive Davis



One of the unwritten rules of jazz is that the best players set their sights on New York to test themselves against the most demanding competition. Another time-honoured custom is that when American players do settle on this side of the Atlantic, they prefer France, Germany or Scandinavia.

The abrasive young tenor saxophonist Jean Toussaint has, temporarily at least, decided to go against the grain. After four and a half years with Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers — one of the great unofficial jazz academies — Toussaint is now resident in London, teaching at the Guildhall School of Music and playing with his own band.

The Guildhall invited him to work on his jazz course after he took part in previous jazz "clinics" in London while on tour with the Messengers. He now plans to stay here, he says, until the summer, perhaps longer. He certainly intends to spend at least two years away from New York.

"One of the reasons I came here was that I wanted a chance to slow down and assess my playing, practise as much as I want. When you're teaching, it makes you step back to look at exactly what you're doing. It's a good discipline. In New York it's difficult to do that because you have to hustle all the time just to pay the bills. Work keeps coming at you, and unless you're established as a leader it can turn into a treadmill."

Adjusting to life in the British capital has proved fairly straightforward. Toussaint, after all, went through a similar experience a decade ago, when he left his native island of St Thomas in the Virgin Islands, to study at the Berklee School in Boston. Some of his relatives actually settled in London; there are others still to meet in Bradford.

Despite providing the title of Sonny Rollins's most cele-

brated calypso theme, St Thomas was not the ideal place for a young jazz musician to learn his trade. Most of the local bands, Toussaint recalls, were commercial groups playing reggae or pop, and it was difficult even to track down jazz records in the music shops.

Berklee provided an altogether more bracing atmosphere, and by 1982 Toussaint was ready to audition for a place with the Messengers, encouraged by his friend Billy Pierce, the band's tenor player, who wanted to move. Toussaint stayed until November 1986, appearing on such albums as New Year's Eve at Sweet Basil's.

Since arriving here, Toussaint has been a regular performer at the Bass Clef club in Hoxton Square, accompanying visiting musicians and leading his quartet, which includes Jason Rebello on piano and the drummer Mark Taylor. His music belongs to the neo-bop tradition, with Toussaint heavily influenced by such tenor players as Rollins and Wayne Shorter.

Unlike many of his British contemporaries, he is not a slavish imitator of John Coltrane.

"A lot of players, when they start out, only want to listen to Coltrane. I've always loved his stuff, but I don't want to overlook the other great players. Coltrane is an absolute master of technique, but Rollins has a thing with rhythm — he makes time his own to control."

"I don't compare myself to the competition, I compare myself to the masters. Not that I'm a master myself, but my goal is to try to get to that standard. I listen to their records, and it's like they're telling me what I have to do to get that far. None of the competition is playing at that level."

Jean Toussaint can be seen at the Jazz Cafe, Stoke Newington, March 7 and 21, and the Bass Clef on March 31.

ROCK

Paul Johnson Ronnie Scott's

On a night when Bobby Womack, the self-styled "last soul man", was fouting his R'n'B revue band show at Hammersmith, a young black Englishman gave a performance in the centre of town that was a much purer expression of modern soul singing than anything Womack is likely to have mustered.

For Paul Johnson is the first of a breed of new soul men. Born in Harlesden, North London, and now a resident of Croydon, he began singing in the London Gospel Community Choir as a teenager, before joining the Pentecostal gospel/funk group Paradise. His signing of a solo contract with CBS Records consummated a journey from church to popular career that mirrored, in British terms, the traditional American experience of soul artists from Sam Cooke to Freddie Jackson.

At Ronnie Scott's, supported by a discreet sextet and a trio of backing vocalists, Johnson sang at first with a disarming delicacy. Dressed in a dinner jacket, with a diamond brooch fastened at the neck as the only hint of ostentation, his voice alternated between a feathery counter-tenor and a pleading, though never shrill, falsetto.

A big-framed man, he nevertheless moved with a fastidious lightness, making quick fluttery gestures with his hands to emphasize lyrics which were almost entirely about love, and to judge by his more extravagant flights, love of a decidedly secular nature at that.

During "Intimate Friends" and "New Love" he took off into long sequences of vocal extemporizing, that adroitly mixed the classic elements of gospel testifying with some of the tenets of jazz improvisation.

But as his performance in this intimate club built to a climax of bared emotional expression, underlined by lingering moments of eye contact with individuals in the audience, it seemed that this talented British soul pioneer lacks the playful quality that his American counterparts employ as a mechanism to defuse the overcharged intensity to which such emotive music is prone.

For all Johnson's undoubted appeal, this was soul with a gleam in its eye where at times a twinkle might have been more appropriate.

David Sinclair

Six in three make seven

DANCE

Septet Birmingham Repertory

Acquiring Merce Cunningham's Septet is the best thing that has happened to the Rambert repertoire for some time. For one thing it is an excellent work in itself, cool, witty, refreshing.

And for another, it will show all the young choreographers over-influenced by Cunningham's late works, that in early days he covered a wider and more theatrical range.

Septet dates from 1953 and its only previous British performances were in 1964.

Ritual observed

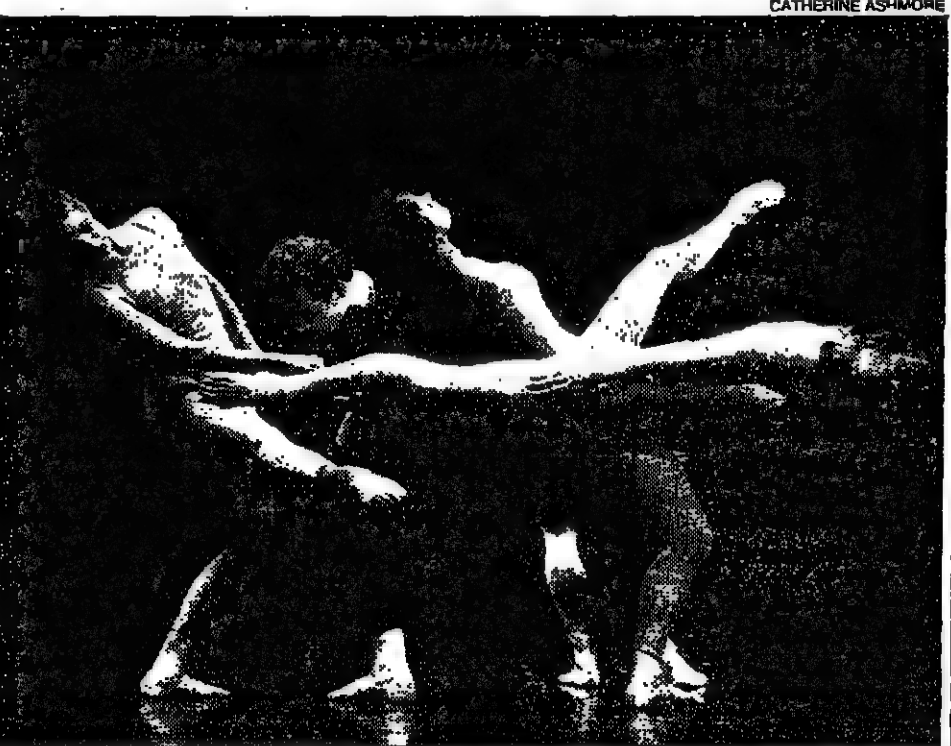
VARIETY

Tony Bennett Barbican Hall

Just for the record, I should report that Tony Bennett is still singing "I Left My Heart in San Francisco". And it is still enough to send middle-aged admirers flocking to the stage to shake hands or pass on a red rose. The old formula continues to do its work.

It was a pity, all the same, that Bennett had to be so unadventurous. His career has taken on new momentum recently, with the release of a surprisingly enjoyable album dedicated to 99 year-old Irving Berlin.

Bennett-Berlin is an unfussy reading of a dozen Berlin standards, arranged by Bennett himself. Abandoning his usual lush string accompaniment, on this he is backed only by Ralph Sharon's trio, with contributions from Dizzy Gillespie, George Benson and — on the track "All Of My Life" — by the saxophonist Dexter Gordon.



Four of the Rambert six: Sue Hawksley, Lucy Bethune, Michael Hodges and Cathrine Price

Amazing to think that at the time, only a quarter of a century ago, our inexperience of modern dance was such that some people found it baffling.

Now it looks subtle but elegant, clear although complex. It is set for six dancers; the apparently paradoxical

title arises from the fact that the music has seven sections.

And when I add that it is Satie's Trois Pièces en forme de poire, you will not be surprised that Cunningham has found it apt to include humorous touches.

These come mainly in the form of inconsequential happenings during little silent interludes between the dances; but also in the leading men's solo, where facial grimaces form a vital part of the choreography.

The dances comprise separate episodes covering a considerable variety: a duct that makes eloquent use of the most economical mood, for

instance, being followed by a quick springy quartet; or a slow balancing trio for the women giving way to a swift sequence for one of them with two men.

For all its fun, Septet also conveys a sense of mystery, sentiment and adventure.

I cannot think of any dancer today to match memories of Cunningham long ago, with his wry personality, goat-like agility and razor-sharp timing, but Mark Baldwin makes a very decent showing in the central role, and the rest of Wednesday night's cast backed him ably.

John Percival

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C.D.

War of the leaders as new party is born

By Richard Ford
Political Correspondent

Personal recriminations overshadowed the launch yesterday of the Social and Liberal Democrats as Dr David Owen and the new centre party laid claim to be the true inheritors of the SDP.

The spectre of Dr Owen hovered over the low-key formal birth of the merged party as its leaders sought to minimize his support and warned him against using the title Social Democratic Party for his fledgling organization.

Despite a public display of confidence by its leadership, the new party sets sail into troubled waters with low ratings in the opinion polls, only half the joint membership of the two parties and a potential political threat from Dr Owen's Campaign for Social Democracy.

Within a matter of months it will be plunged into internal battles for the presidency and the leadership. Mr David Steel will decide if he will

be a candidate for the leadership during an Easter holiday. If he decides to stand down the strongest contender is seen as Mr Paddy Ashdown, with Mr Charles Kennedy as his deputy.

Mrs Shirley Williams said yesterday that she would not be a candidate for the presidency, which is expected to develop into a contest between Mr Ian Wigglesworth and Mr Tom McNally.

The launch used the same gold colour of the Alliance with a logo in black bearing the words Social and Liberal Democrats and proclaiming the merged organization as The New Choice - The Best Future, but its subdued nature was an attempt to avoid the criticism levelled at the public relations hype that surrounded the launch of the SDP seven years ago.

In the longer term political struggle for the allegiance of the middle ground in British politics, the new party's immediate aim is to secure its position as the main force in the

centre and marginalize Dr Owen. Supporters of Dr Owen believe his personality and clear-cut policies will prove vital assets while the leadership of the SLD says its superior numbers and organization in the constituencies will be decisive.

The vitriol surrounding the exchanges yesterday between former colleagues in the Alliance indicates how acrimonious will be the continuing warfare in the centre ground of British political life.

Mr Steel, the interim joint leader of the new party, dismissed Dr Owen and his supporters as a "club of rich backers" and, using a Lloyd George quotation, likened him to a wild man screaming through the key hole door.

He said of the division between the new party and Dr Owen: "We are not talking about a split. We are talking about an insignificant splinter. There is a party and there is a splinter. We must not keep on

talking as though they are two halves, they are not."

He ruled out an electoral pact with the Owenites saying they had not gone through the pain and agony of the past eight months to set up a new party simply to look around for another alliance. They would fight every parliamentary election and expected to do the same in each seat at the next general election. However Mr Steel said it would be a matter for the local organizations if they decided to mount a challenge in the constituencies of Dr Owen and his two colleagues, Mr John Cartwright and Mrs Rosie Barnes.

Hailing the new organization as a "great national party", Mr Robert MacLennan warned that the title SDP was available for use by others. "It remains to be seen if anyone is going to be so foolish as to claim it."

Minutes later Dr Owen defiantly responded that the SDP was the one thing that was constant and

continuing in existence with himself as leader. Although he said he would not get involved in a slanging match, Dr Owen could not resist an aside against Mrs Williams.

"I think the trouble with Shirley is that she has lost three elections in succession in three different constituencies. She is not so active in politics now. It is very easy for people who are going to the side lines to tell MPs how to behave."

Dr Owen said he had taken legal advice on the use of the title SDP and had been told that it was perfectly possible for there to be more than one SDP in the country at any one time.

While the SLD, with more than 400 councillors seeking re-election, sets the local government polls in May as the first test of strength for the two parties, Dr Owen, with many fewer, sees the test as being in the European elections next year.

"It is probably only as an election approaches that sanity will break out."

Merger sketch

Introducing... er... you know who

Starting at 10.00 am, it looked much like one of television's new mid-morning panel games. On the raised platform to the left were the Members of Parliament. On the raised platform to the right were assorted unselected others. In the middle was a democracy of quizmasters, with Bob and Shirley and David to the left and the name of the game.

This is the sort of title that has earned these panel games their special elevenses slot. They favour the less well known type of celebrity, the sort whose face rings a bell, but it is hard to remember quite why. Was he on a coffee advertisement four years ago or was he something to do with Max Bygraves, or was he once a ventriloquist, or is he now, perhaps, a Liberal MP? Maybe he will pioneer a whole new genre of quiz-game, in which the audience has to guess exactly who each celebrity is.

The chief quizmaster took to the rostrum. He was Ian Wigglesworth. Wasn't he the one who... no, no, that was someone else. "It is with a sense of relief and excitement that we come here today," he said, and, a minute later, he said: "It is with a sense of relief and excitement that we come here today." The other phrase (10 points) was "a great sense of optimism". Everyone on the platform, it seemed, however glum they might have looked, was full of a great sense of optimism.

Ian asked the viewers to welcome Adrian. Adrian, he announced, represented "all that is best in the Liberal Party". Adrian said that he felt a strong sense of optimism. He talked of turning back the tide. "Thank you very much, Adrian," said Ian.

Next Ian invited on someone who had made "a major impact on the House of Commons and British politics since he was elected in 1983". Who could it be? Ah! It was a trick question! It was Mr Charles Kennedy, MP for Ross, Cromarty and Skye. Charles said a few words. Thank you very much, Charles.

Next came Geraint from Wales whose ambition is to

be in Government by the turn of the century. "There's an excellent team behind me here. Give them a chance! That is the appeal from the people of Wales". (One of the more outrageous aspects of being a politician from Wales seems to be that you can never be a single person; you must always be an entire people). Thank you, Geraint.

The next contestant had shown "great dignity and integrity", said Ian. Who could it be? Step forward, Robert MacLennan MP. His starter for 10: what was the purpose of the new party? "Our purpose is to revive and strengthen the effectiveness of democracy in Britain". Thank you very much, Bob.

And on to the next contestant, who had shown "great courage and determination". Welcome, David Steel. How are you feeling, David? "It is exhilarating to be here". And what do you intend to do? "We intend to give hope to a whole new generation". David made a joke about Lloyd George, and his fellow panellists put on their long, lingering, platform smiles to show they had got it. What sort of party are you, David? "We are a big party". Thank you, David, thank you.

Now there's a face we recognize! Shirley something. The one with the hair, you know. Used to be on television during elections. Ian introduced her. "Shirley has brought warmth and sincerity and understanding to British politics". Yes, that's the one - Shirley Williams! I knew she'd done something like that. So what do you want for your country, Shirley? "We want for our country the best of futures". Thank you very much, Shirley.

So those were the panellists: now what about the prizes? But the game is not yet over. The gentlemen of the Press can ask some questions. There are one or two questions about Dr Owen ("insignificant splinter, insignificant splinter"), but no-one can think of anything else to ask.

And so the prize is wheeled on. The chance to sign the Founders' Book! See them queue, all with their shiny gold pens! Welcome, to the Social and Liberal Democrats.

Craig Brown

Nato fires warning to Gorbachov

Continued from page 1
welcoming Mr Gorbachov's reform efforts. Asked whether this tough attitude was at odds with her plea to the summit meeting on Wednesday to give Mr Gorbachov's "courageous reforms" a chance, the Prime Minister said those were complementary aspects of the same approach.

Greater freedom in Russia might eventually make the Kremlin less aggressive, but the West had to keep up strong defences. This was reflected in the summit meeting declaration which noted "encouraging signs of change" in Russia but said there had been no relaxation of the Soviet military effort, with Moscow deploying a "massive force" far beyond its defence needs.

The summit meeting resolved a tussle over the place of short-range reductions in Nato's arms control priorities by repeating a formula devised by Nato foreign ministers last June in Reykjavik that "tangible and verifiable reductions leading to equal ceilings" would come "in conjunction with" a conventional balance and a ban on chemical weapons. But Mrs Thatcher said it would be "most unwise" for Nato to enter short range talks until it was sure it could get the "equal ceilings" Herr Kohl was after.

Lord Carrington, the Nato Secretary-General, said the Brussels declaration gave clear guidance, and was "not a hedge".

He supported Mrs Thatcher's contention that Moscow's own weapons programme was continuing unabated. In a fulsome tribute to Lord Carrington, who retires in July, President Reagan said he had "steered the ship of 16 nations" with consummate skill for four years and had earned Nato's "unbounded admiration".

● MOSCOW: Mr Gennady Gerasimov, the chief Kremlin spokesman, told a press briefing yesterday that the final communiqué of the Nato summit was still being studied in Moscow and that it was "too early" to draw conclusions from it (Christopher Walker writes).

Hitting the trail with a Magnum .44



Leslie drives her dog team and grins confidently after her practice run.

Lesley Monk's membership of the Preston Grasshoppers might prove invaluable. Sounding more like a team of Lancashire basketball players than a shooting club, the Grasshoppers Rifle and Pistol Club taught the hairdresser-turned-archery dog racer from Burnley how to pack the most powerful of handguns - the .44 Magnum.

Lesley, only 5ft 11in tall, is no "Dirty Harry" - but she will keep the gun at her side day and night for two weeks as she guides a team of 15 weather-hardened huskies across the wilderness of north-west Alaska.

More than 1,000 miles of barren tundra separate the city

of Anchorage from the remote gold town of Nome; linking the two is the barren Iditarod Trail, the ultimate in dog-sled racing.

On Saturday, the 1988 Iditarod will be run, testing men, women and the canine world's toughest breeds.

The Iditarod is no bastion of male supremacy. The odds for a female winner in Nome are high, with Susan Butcher, twice winner of the Iditarod and a Sports Illustrated cover star, one of the favourites.

Such is Butcher's influence on the event that twice at the pre-race press conference, officials referred to the prospective winner of the 1988 Iditarod as a "she".

A rookie in Iditarod challenges, Lesley Monk is an expert husky breeder at home on the Lancashire moors... to such an extent that she even thinks like one of her canine team.

"I have almost become canine in thought since I came out to Alaska in October," she said.

"The team and I think as one; they anticipate what I think and what I will do in a situation, almost as if they could read my mind."

Windy, Rex, Silver, Cheyenne, Tyinka... Lesley's team of dogs have spent months in her company, training over thousands of miles of tundra in



an uphill struggle to unite as one unit.

In January the battle seemed to have been won. Lesley finished the qualifying race well using the dogs she had watched day in day out for a month.

Rival 'may bid for Rover'

By Daniel Ward, Motor Industry Correspondent

A rival car manufacturer could enter the bidding for Rover Group this week in opposition to the British Aerospace takeover, it was suggested yesterday.

Mr Gareth Rhys, Professor of motor industry economics at Cardiff university and permanent adviser to the Commons Select Committee on Trade and Industry, said: "I am certain that within a week another player will come into the ring to bid for Rover Group."

The emergence of a serious

rival would force up the price a suitor would have to pay for the state-owned vehicle maker and provide a significant choice, despite government agreement that it will negotiate the sale of Rover Group exclusively with BAE until the end of April.

Ford is likely to be the front runner in any bid to head off the BAE deal.

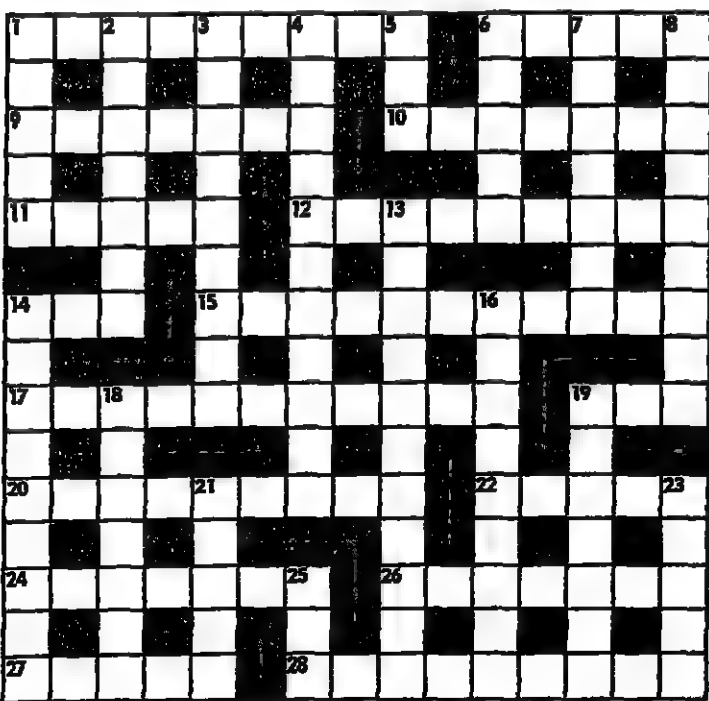
Professor Rhys emphasized, however: "This is a once and for all opportunity for Ford and the company needs to

make up its mind pretty quickly."

Ford was cast in the role of unwelcome predator some years ago after the Government asked it to consider collaboration or the takeover of Austin Rover in an attempt to form one strong British vehicle maker.

Rover's takeover by BAE would end Ford's hopes of forming an important British vehicle maker with Rover and make it almost impossible for Ford to jump to the top-selling position in the European industry.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,608



- ACROSS**
- Mark soldier's recidivist character (9).
 - Like American uncle, in a very wet state (5).
 - Surly youth turns to American gangster from his early days (7).
 - He should have no difficulty solving x and y (4-3).
 - Arab boss shows to shrink from in horror (5).
 - Free house patronised by Yeats (3).
 - Unwillingly he's involved in the execution (11).
 - Driver may get relief from this occasional drink (6,5).
 - Half the rope has slipped out of the tent peg (3).
 - Boot on the estate car slows it down (5,4).
 - A doctor who's into eyes, say? No, let (5).
 - Electric car with fixed overheads (7).
 - Spacious ship, the Bounty (7).
 - Rider's accompaniment for lower parts (5).
 - Not in a position to steal the show? (4,5).
- DOWN**
- Jewish girl born in the interior (5).
 - Fabulous creature, sounds like a newcomer to the East (7).
 - They include Tobit - potentially a rosy chap (9).
 - Shorfall in small trees and bushes? (11).
 - The Spanish king's deer (3).
 - Scotie mounted in an ornament (5).
 - Irish flower girl regularly taking under a shilling (7).
 - Insect impelled to change direction (9).
 - For a fat chap he's a brave fighter (5,6).
 - No need for sit-ins in this egg factory (9).
 - Pound out right madrigals for Shrove Tuesday (5,4).
 - Justice not deeply rooted in Shakespeare (7).
 - Put was over a paint (7).
 - This girl may get red if she is not ready (5).
 - The way out is to take legal proceedings (5).
 - He fishes for perch (3).

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

LUCUS A NON LUCENDO

a. A false argument

b. An absurd explanation

c. An indirect light

ALLOO

a. Turkish delight

b. Haunting cry of the Quorn

c. To lacerate

VELLEITY

a. A fine cambric

b. A wish

c. Stubbornness

NUTBALL

a. An eccentric

b. A chocolate bar

c. An adjustable spanner

Answers on page 20, column 1

Solution to Puzzle No 17,607

JACKASS GROSSER

USURP BARGAINER

NOTRE DAME TIENT

LEADS INGENITIVE

SEN N O E M

MISGOVERN SEPPIA

I W G U L

CHART FRESHWHEEL

H C R L R E M E

ARCHITECT DREAR

E R A E O G N C

LEAFLET SWEETLY

WEATHER

After some early frost, most places will have sunny spells. Sleet and snow showers will be mainly in places exposed to the north or northwest wind and will be heaviest in northern and eastern areas. Overnight frost in many places. Outlook: Sunny periods and a few showers in the east on Saturday, but rather more cloudy in the west. Cloud and rain spreading west to all areas on Sunday.

ABROAD

MONDAY: 1 to thunder; 2 to drizzle; 3 to fog; 5 to sun; 6 to sleet; 7 to snow; 8 to rain; 9 to rain; 10 to rain; 11 to rain; 12 to rain.

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Bond increases Allied holding to 6.3%

Bond Corporation Holdings, the Australian brewing group headed by Mr Alan Bond, confirmed that it has raised its stake in Allied-Lyons, the food and brewing group, to 6.3 per cent. Mr Bond also issued a £125 million 18-year convertible loan stock, underpinned by 27 million Allied-Lyons shares, which was sold out quickly. The loan stock means that Mr Bond will lose voting control of 3.7 per cent of Allied-Lyons.

Mr Bond has claimed that he was buying more shares in order to "average down" the cost of his holding. His first 3.5 per cent stake is thought to have been bought at 375p per share. The shares fell 7p to close at 364p.

CAP issue to finance buy

CAP Group, the software house and naval engineering consultant, is buying Principia Mechanical, a company specializing in earth sciences, materials and structural technology. CAP is paying £336,000, to be financed by issuing new CAP shares to the vendors, 80 per cent of which are being placed with institutions.

L&G buying fund adviser

Legal and General Group, the life assurance and pension company, is buying Individual Pension Funds, an investment and pension fund adviser in the North-west of England. The initial consideration is £500,000 to be paid in shares. L&G is developing a nationwide network of independent financial advisers.

Edinburgh advances

Edinburgh Financial Trust, the Scottish financial services group, made profits before tax of £810,000 in the year to December 31 1987, as against £47,000 in the previous year. The company has made an extraordinary provision of £233,000 - a debit which covers the costs of the company converting from an investment trust to a financial services group.

Net tangible assets at the year-end amounted to £10 million. The company is paying a final dividend of 0.25p, making a total of 0.35p for the year, compared with last year's payment of 0.60p.

Questel rises to £1.4m

Questel, the telecommunications system designer and manufacturer quoted on the USM, made pretax profits in the year to end-October of £1.4 million against £1.2 million. Turnover rose to £4.6 million from £3.7 million. Demand for SuperCall, its main product, is "sustained and substantial". The total dividend was 5.4p.

Wilkes trio raise holding

Three directors of James Wilkes, the Sheffield group with packaging, print, property and engineering operations, have raised their shareholding to 29.64 per cent by buying a further 100,000 shares at 170p. The stake is worth £2.1 million. Mr Stephen Hinchcliffe, the chairman, heads the trio with 28.68 per cent.

£29bn council funds

Local authority pension funds are now valued at £29 billion and include holdings of more than £17 billion in stocks and shares, according to statistics compiled by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.

Revised figures, published yesterday, show that the local authorities account for approximately 15 per cent of the total of pension fund assets in Britain, which are valued at more than £194 billion. Pension fund investment in the equity markets appears from the figures to be indifferent to a council's political persuasion. The Labour-controlled council at Barking in East London, for example, with a pension fund worth £101 million, holds 60 per cent of its assets in British equities.

Cadbury finds a sweet market in US

Cadbury Schweppes sells 325 million Creme Eggs each year, mostly in the three months before Easter.

Two thirds of the clutch are consumed here but the product has been successfully transferred to the US - quite an achievement given that chocolate does not normally cross international boundaries well.

Cadbury's US business is still small, accounting for under 11 per cent of total trading profits. But it was the fastest-growing part of the group last year, even after currency movements.

Especially encouraging is the 2 per cent share of trial markets secured by a new product, Caramello. US trading margins, are, however, still too low.

In Britain, Cadbury's strategy of increasing marketing spend has paid off without hurting margins. The group's share of the British chocolate market rose from 28.5 per cent to 29.2 per cent during the year, while confectionery margins widened from 7.8 per cent to 10.4 per cent.

The drinks business, now enlarged by the Coca-Cola joint venture, is the largest contributor - at 57 per cent - to group sales but at a lower margin business accounts for only 49 per cent of trading profits. This differential should narrow as the business is still being reorganized.

Sales from the Coca-Cola

joint venture were £450 million and trading problems reduced divisional profits by almost £10 million. There were also balance sheet write-offs and start-up costs.

The £55 million Wakefield plant should add much-needed capacity in 1991 and make an immediate contribution.

Cadbury Schweppes should comfortably exceed its target of 25 per cent return on operating assets to make more than £210 million this year. The shares, at 267p, sell at a full rating but the underlying quality of the business is at last beginning to show through.

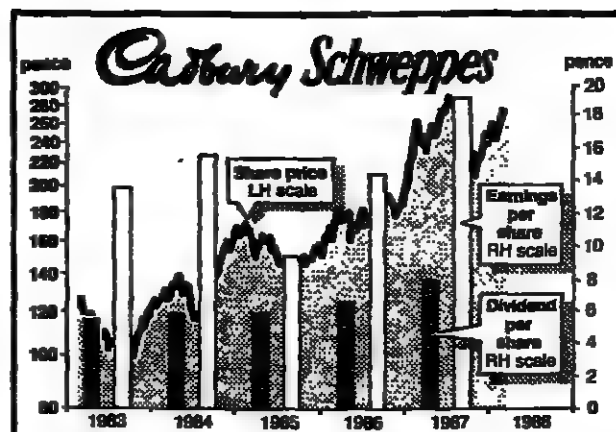
Meanwhile there is the 17.7 per cent General Cinema stake to add the occasional fizz.

WPP Group

WPP Group, which sells the message for the likes of Boots, Unilever and De Beers, among 78 other international clients, has its own success story to tell for 1987. After the fifth successive year of growth and somewhat helped by the acquisition of JWT, pretax profits turn out at £14.1 million, some £1.5 million above market expectations.

The make-up was £8.3 million from the old, classic business and £5.9 million from JWT, which was included for only part of the year.

A year ago, WPP showed profits of £1.76 million. The



rise in group turnover is even more impressive and also requires explanation - up from £23.7 million to £28.4 million. But the real investment message of how fundamentally well WPP did last year is, however, best seen at the net earnings a share level (up from 13.2p to 32.1p), and because there are still lots of steam under the group, a year of further growth looks ahead.

JWT's famous advertising subsidiary, J Walter Thompson, as admitted at the time of the acquisition, is going to be a three to four-year programme before margins are up to the 10 per cent mark, but a start has been made. They are already up to the 6.5 per cent level.

Group operating margins at WPP on a directly comparable basis rose from 5.5 per cent to 7.5 per cent and further cost controls should see those edg-

ing higher. WPP shares have suffered in recent months from two investment fears: what was perceived to be its dollar exposure; and its debt level.

WPP is not in the property business, so with two and a half million sq ft of office space around the world, the opportunities are there to shed some of its freeholds. An offer of £97 million has already been received for the Tokyo sites and various sites in other major cities are now being viewed by interested parties.

As for dollar worries, a 10 per cent fall in the dollar means only a \$1 million impact at the pretax level thanks to the compensating elements on the balance sheet associated with borrowings. There are ample opportunities within its five core business divisions for further pro-

ductivity improvements and for add-on acquisitions which should easily be funded internally. Profits of at least £31 million look plausible in 1988 and at 535p on 12.3 times earnings, the shares are not expensive.

BBA Group

It's possible to detect a degree of self-satisfaction at BBA Group, the automotive components and industrial textile equipment group - and why not. Under Dr John White and Mr Peter Clappison, BBA has accelerated rapidly away from the problems it ran into following its purchase of Automotive Products in March, 1986. Earlier doubts about the wisdom of the AP deal have been swiftly dispelled.

A 55 per cent leap in pretax profits to £41.2 million is pretty much in line with the best City expectations - particularly if the £2.1 million lost to currency fluctuations is added back - and underlines the management's ability to turn non-performing businesses around.

In Britain, it was the rationalization of the AP and Mintex Don operations that produced the main impetus to the profits growth. Although volume demand for the brake disc pads and clutches manufactured by these two businesses grew by, at best, 5 per cent, margins were enhanced by cutting back the workforce

and introducing new equipment. Overseas, where BBA sells almost 70 per cent of its products, results were excellent right around the world, in mainland Europe, North America and Australia.

During the course of the year, the group ploughed £40.2 million into new equipment, yet still succeeded in pulling borrowings down to £67.3 million, trimming gearing from 42.3 to 29.0 per cent. This year, it may well invest £50 million. At the same time, it is prepared for another £50 million or £60 million acquisition as it seeks to reduce its still heavy dependence on the motor industry. Currently, 80 per cent of profits are derived from the automotive operations. The board would be happier with a 60-40 split.

For the current year, the group looks capable of making £50 million before tax comfortably, regardless of any acquisitions. And it is far from unhappy about the longer term. More than half its automotive profits come from the after-market, which is less sensitive to any recession. Earnings per share, benefiting from a reduction in the average share base, rose in 1987 to 36.9 pence in 1986 to 28.2 pence, reflecting the higher profits earned in the after-market, which is less sensitive to any recession. Earnings per share, benefiting from a reduction in the average share base, rose in 1987 to 36.9 pence in 1986 to 28.2 pence, reflecting the higher profits earned in the after-market, which is less sensitive to any recession. Earnings per share, benefiting from a reduction in the average share base, rose in 1987 to 36.9 pence in 1986 to 28.2 pence, reflecting the higher profits earned in the after-market, which is less sensitive to any recession.

STOCK MARKETS

Shares stay above 1,800

A hesitant start to trading on Wall Street took some of the steam out of London's pre-Budget rally yesterday, with share prices closing well below their best levels of the day.

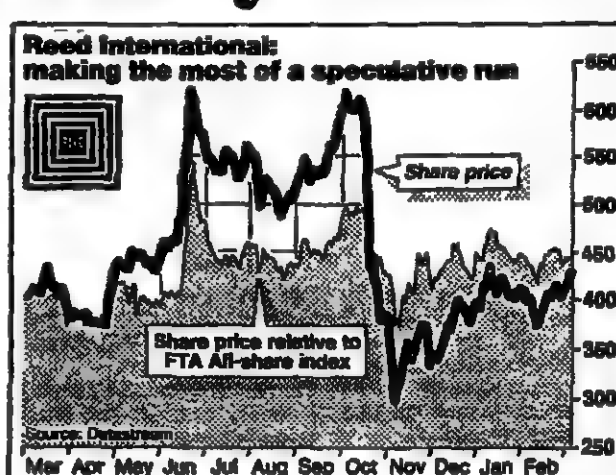
But the FT-SE 100 index managed to consolidate its position above the 1,800 level and brokers were last night expressing satisfaction with the market's performance. Their views were, no doubt, coloured by another pick-up in turnover which saw almost 600 million shares traded on the Stock Exchange's computerized trading system (Seag) as fund managers started buying for new time ahead of the Budget auction which starts on Monday.

Most dealers are still looking forward to a strong run-up to the Chancellor's speech. Mr Bernard Jones, an analyst at Kleinwort Greaveson, the broker, says: "All the major world stock markets have now moved above the high points of the December bounce after the crash. A turnaround and a new plunge seems unlikely just yet."

His advice is to stick to the old adage: "The trend is your friend" and go with it.

The FT-SE 100 index reduced a 17.7 lead to close 4.6 higher at 1,813.3, while the narrower FT index of 30 shares fell 4.3 to 1,463.6, having been 10.0 points higher first thing.

Sentiment was boosted by better-than-expected figures from companies like Shell, 3p higher at £10.22 and Cadbury Schweppes, 3p easier at 267p.



Among blue chips, Glaxo rose by 8p to £10.90 ahead of figures later this month, while ICI hardened by 7p to £11.07, after £11.13, and BAT's shares advanced 12p to 459p following its \$63-a-share offer.

Ranks Hovis McDougall, that old takeover favourite, is showing signs of revival after a period in the doldrums which has seen the price mark time at around the 325p level. Yesterday, it advanced 4p to 329p which dealers claimed was a significant "breakout." Goodman Fielder still owns a 29 per cent stake and will be free to make a full bid from next month onwards.

for Farmers, the US financial services group. Government securities suffered early losses of up to £4 but rallied later in the day to end with small gains of around £1/4 at the longer end.

Boots, the chemist, rose by 6p to 232p, after 236p, on suggestions that tests on its new heart drug were running ahead of schedule. James Capel, the broker, was said to

month's Budget. Grand Metropolitan rose by 4p to 490p and Bass by 5p to 835p.

Reed International, the paper, pulp and publishing group, was again in demand with investors chasing the price another 10p higher to 432p - making a two-day lead of 28p. This has led to suggestions that The News Corporation, the parent company of News International, which owns The Times, has been topping up its 2.3 per cent holding.

But turnover has been low this week with only 2 million shares changing hands yesterday.

Alexanders Laing & Cruickshank, the broker, follows the fortunes of Reed closely and remains a big fan of the shares. Mr Henry Poole, an analyst at ALC, continues to recommend the shares as a buy on fundamentals alone. He is currently putting together a review of the company which is expected to be published within the next week or two. If the market has got wind of Mr Poole's report, it could be one reason why the shares are enjoying such a good run.

Christies International, the fine art auctioneer, rose by 40p to 584p, prompted by confirmation that a rival, Phillips, had bought a 5 per cent stake. Speculation has been rife about a possible build-up in the shares since December.

Michael Clark

NEW YORK

Interest switches to secondary shares

(Reuters) - Shares showed little change in early trading yesterday. Brokers reported that investors were awaiting the employment report, due today, although the report may not have a significant effect on the market. They also said that interest had shifted from blue chips to secondary stocks.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose by 0.83 to 2,071.29.

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STC PLC 1987 Record Results

"The board is pleased to report on another successful year for STC.

The momentum of the business has continued strongly throughout 1987 and has resulted in record levels of turnover, profit and cash. We look forward with confidence to further growth in the coming year."

Preliminary Unaudited Results			
	1987 £ million	1986 £ million	Increase
Turnover	2,066.6	1,933.4	7%
Pre-tax profit	188.0	134.2	40%
Net cash	196.0	37.0	430%
Earnings per share	22.5p	15.9p	42%
Dividend	7.0p	4.5p	56%

ICL
The Communications & Information Systems Group
STC PLC, 10 MALTRAVERS STREET, LONDON WC2R 3HA

BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	9.00%
Adams & Company	9.00%
BCCI	9.00%
Comprehensive Credit	9.00%
Co-operative Bank	8.50%
C. Hoare & Co.	9.00%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	9.00%
Lloyds Bank	9.00%
Nat Westminster	9.00%
Royal Bank of Scotland	9.00%
TSB	9.00%
Credit Bank NA	9.00%

SYDNEY

Gains spread across sectors

(Reuters) - The Australian share market closed higher yesterday, with gains spread across most sectors.

At the close of trade the All Ordinaries index was seven points higher at 1,293 and the All Industrials index gained 11.1 points to 2,108.2.

The All Resources index rose 3.8 points to 680.3 and the gold index jumped 38.7 to 1,529.4.

CANADIAN PRICES

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Alcan Alum	35%
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Sales advanced
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for the year
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dividends.

Lex group leap 77%

Lex Service
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Uncivil war of words

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سكوت الاميل

Shell lifts profit and payout but warns on oil price slide

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Shell yesterday announced profits in line with City expectations and an increased dividend for shareholders. But it gave a warning that the present slide in world oil prices could continue unless Opec rushed through tighter output controls.

Profits for last year on an historic cost basis rose by 14 per cent to £2.883 billion from £2.54 billion the previous year. However, on a current cost basis they fell by 15 per cent to £2.865 billion from £3.372 billion.

The final dividend of 31.5p takes the dividend for the full year up to 48p, a rise of 11.6 per cent compared with last year's full-year dividend of 43p.

Mr Peter Holmes, the Shell chairman, also said that in future the interim dividend would be more in line with the final, which will be welcomed by the income funds that hold large blocks of Shell shares.

The one cloud on Shell's horizon, however, was the forced withdrawal of its Formula Shell petrol after the discovery in Scandinavia and other markets that the leaded version of the petrol could be responsible for valve damage.

Shell has been unable to quantify the costs of the withdrawal but there have been signs that its market share has been affected. About 10,000 complaints are under investigation worldwide.

Shell estimates that about 20 million motorists had used the petrol and found they benefited from the spark improver chemical that had been added. The Formula Shell version of unleaded petrol continues in production.

Shell said 600 cars had been tested to destruction and a total of 6 million kilometres covered in testing the petrol without any problems.

Mr Holmes gave a warning that Opec may have to call an emergency meeting soon to tighten its grip on its output quota system if it wants to prevent oil prices from sliding.

The key North Sea Brent crude was being priced at \$15 a barrel for April delivery and \$14.80 for May delivery, against an Opec target price of \$18 a barrel.

Mr Holmes said Opec prices were likely to stay around present levels in the short term. "This means they are going to have to hold their collective nerve and it is going to be difficult for them."

Mr Holmes suggested Opec members may even have to introduce a temporary cut in existing quotas to bring supply back into line with demand. They were victims, he added, of a comparatively mild winter in the western world and high stock levels held by leading oil companies.

In the longer term, he said, Opec would see demand rising and prices firming.

Shell's results show improved earnings from exploration and production as oil prices rose slightly last year.

Profits from sales showed a slight decrease over 1986, but the chemicals business profits grew from £462 million to £764 million.

UK firm wins Soviet contract

Moscow (Reuters) — Simon-Carves, the British engineering contractor, has signed a £246 million contract to build a plant to make non-strategic computers in Soviet Armenia. British diplomats said yesterday.

They described the deal as the largest industrial contract between Britain and the Soviet Union. The contract calls for the construction of a large industrial complex in the Armenian capital of Yerevan by 1991.

The plant will make 25,000 programmable logic controllers a year. These computers control factory conditions such as assembly-line production, heating and lighting.

Simon-Carves believes a key factor in winning the contract against strong international competition was its experience of doing business there. "It confirms our confidence in the market and it should lead to further business. We are now talking about a number of further projects there."

Simon-Carves, a subsidiary of Simon Engineering, based in Stockport, Cheshire, will use technology developed from programmable controllers made by the General Electric Company.

The computers have no strategic implications, British diplomatic sources said.

The deal was the last contract to be completed from a £421 million package of deals negotiated when Mrs Thatcher visited Moscow.

Simon-Carves has already built chemical and tyre factories in the Soviet Union during more than 30 years of business links.

For the company, which makes a variety of process plants, the deal breaks records for the size of a single contract. It is also the first time on a big contract that it has moved out of the process plant sector.

COMMENT Fresh thinking needed on vetting of mergers

Lord Young's all-purpose White Paper presentation of his new look DTI stole the thunder of Francis Maude's report on merger policy by including its main conclusions and proposed changes to speed up merger vetting. There is evidently more to come in streamlining the Monopolies and Mergers Commission after advice from Ernst & Whinney. This will include cutting the quorum for an investigation from five to three commissioners, making nominal charges and (more questionably) cutting down the information published in MMC reports.

The report is, in any case, a poor document. It suffers from having too narrow a brief and from the appearance of having to reach conclusions politically determined in advance. As a result, for instance, the reasoning against a moratorium on further bids for a company once one has been referred is threadbare as is the case against compulsory prenotification of mergers.

This approach does not even stand comparison with an admittedly sketchy proposal for new look Labour Party policy from the Labour finance and industry group, which was published simultaneously. Unlike the DTI study, this takes likely changes in EEC merger policy on board and suggests a Brussels-inspired general prohibition on moves designed to restrict competition.

It also suggests a much simpler merger vetting process. This would put the onus of decision on a beefed-up Office of Fair Trading, which would have to decide within a week whether to hold a full investigation and then do it in a further 30 days. The Monopolies Commission would be reduced to the status of an appeal body to which disappointed bidders could turn if the OFT said "no" which it would evidently do more often under Labour.

This begs the crucial question of whether an unwilling takeover victim could appeal against an OFT agreement to a merger, which would transform the contested takeover business. But it reveals more fertile thinking on mechanics than has been taking place in Whitehall — probably because Labour is more interested in regulating mergers.

Policy towards mergers, rather than mechanism, is the crucial area where both documents fail to impress. The Labour group sees merger regulation as a means of imposing government policy on anything from "maintenance of strategic industries" to "better working environment" — a dangerous recipe for meddling, discretionary control and influence-mongering. But it has at least grappled with the central problem of classical monopoly control.

In the textbooks, the only systematic failure of markets in this area is that they favour monopoly power. This, therefore, should be the motive for interfering with markets, as stated in the Tebbit doctrine maintained by Lord Young.

In practice, however, there are so many exceptions to this prejudice against market concentration — typified by the British Airways/B-Cal case — that it is no longer a clear policy principle. It will become even flimsier in a single European market with Community controls.

Cadbury's £176m tops forecast

By Alexandra Jackson

Cadbury Schweppes, the sweets and soft drinks group, produced profits ahead of market forecasts, up 35 per cent at £176.1 million for the year to December 31.

The shares had been strong performers in the run-up to the results on hopes of a bid from the US group, General Cinema, but they drifted 3p lower yesterday to 267p.

General Cinema increased its stake during the year but the exercise of convertible shares and share options leaves the holding at 17.7 per cent.

Sir Adrian Cadbury, the chairman, said: "We have not heard from General Cinema since it took its original stake."

Sales advanced 10 per cent to £2.03 billion and earnings per share rose a third to 19.1p. A final dividend of 5.9p was declared making a total of 8p for the year. Shareholders may take shares in lieu of dividends.

Sir Adrian is optimistic about the current year. "I feel confident that by concentrating on our strengths, confectionery and beverages, we can sustain growth in the group's earnings power."

"The rate of growth which we saw in the first-half of 1987 continued through the year and there is no sign of a let-up in 1988," he said.

Sir Adrian pointed out that currency movements had depressed 1987 sales by £174 million and pretax profits by £10 million.

The group is to spend £55 million on a soft drinks complex in Wakefield for its joint venture, Coca-Cola & Schweppes Beverages. As Europe's biggest plant, it will have the capacity to produce 600 million litres of soft drinks.

Within the next couple of weeks, Cadbury will be concluding a deal with a canning company.



Sir Adrian: optimism on growth (Photograph: Nick Rogers)

Lex group profits leap 77% to £47m

By Alison Eadie

Lex Service, the motor dealer and electronic components distributor, produced a 77 per cent increase in pretax profits to £47 million in the year to December 27. Turnover rose 29.6 per cent to £1,440 million.

A buoyant car market, a turn round from loss to profit in electronic components and a £5.6 million contribution from acquisitions, mainly Sears Motor Group, boosted profits.

Lex is Britain's largest motor dealer and has the concession to import all Volvos into Britain. It sold 70,880 last year against 69,000 in 1986 and could have sold more, if it could have secured supplies. It

Tax rate cuts 'will not be incentives'

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

Cuts in the basic rate of income tax will not increase work incentives significantly, said the author of a Treasury-sponsored study on the subject yesterday. Nor are cuts in the higher rates likely to do so.

Speaking at a Public Finance Foundation seminar, Professor CV "Chuck" Brown of Stirling University, said the case for lower income tax rates rested more on the possible gains in allocation of resources from leaving more spending decisions to individuals.

Professor Brown believes, however, that if marginal rates are reduced, average tax rates should be kept more or less where they are.

This means that while the

48% profit increase at Wickes

By Colin Campbell

Wickes, the home improvement retailer which trades from 70 stores in England, Belgium and The Netherlands, has exceeded its profits forecast of £9 million made at the time of its £120 million management buyout in May from its US parent.

It has produced an operating profit 48 per cent higher at £9.6 million for the year ending December 31 against £6.5 million in the previous year. Sales increased from £142 million to £178 million.

Mr Henry Sweetbaum, chairman, is confident of further progress in the current financial year and says another 12 store openings are planned. A final dividend of 0.67p makes a total of 1p, equivalent to an annualized dividend of 1.5p a share.

After payments of £3.05 million associated with the management buyout interest costs, the group reports a pretax profit of £6.7 million for the financial year ended December.

The group acquired Builders Mate, a retailer of timber and building products last September.

Further acquisitions are planned, though Mr Sweetbaum says deals will only be made if they do not retard the group's earnings growth. Over the past four years, Wickes has achieved a compound earnings-a-share growth of more than 40 per cent.

Wickes' shares rose by 3p to 275p.

Over to Batman and Robin

It is supposed to be in the communications business but its shareholders are totally bewildered and concerned by what has been going on at the breakfast television station.

The dismissal of the studio technicians and the threat posed to the future output and quality of programmes was disturbing enough. Then it emerged that since 1980 a 15 per cent shareholding in TV-am has been controlled by Saudi Arabian interests. The rules on which franchises are awarded makes clear that shareholdings above 1 per cent held by non-EEC organizations or individuals should be notified to the Independent Broadcasting Authority. That was not done. On top of that, the

men responsible, Jonathan Aitken and his cousin Timothy, respectively resigned from the board and stepped down as chairman.

The IBA has now ruled that the Aitken Telecommunications Holdings shareholding must be reduced to below 10 per cent unless it can provide a convincing reason why not within a week. And unless TV-am gets a move on with seeing the shareholding sold, the station may lose its franchise.

Television contractors' shares are already uncertain following the Government's declaration of intent to put television franchises up for auction to the highest bidder when current contracts end in 1992. Shares in the sector fell by about 4 per cent.

The only good news for the station is that Bond Media can leave its shareholding at 24.9 per cent for another six months. TV-am should tell its shareholders without delay what it is doing to cope with its difficulties. Even a brief statement from Aitken and Robin would do.

Government ponders £3bn oil projects

By Our Energy Correspondent

A total of 20 new North Sea oil projects, involving the potential investment of £3 billion, is under consideration by the Department of Energy.

Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Secretary of State for Energy, said yesterday that in addition to the proposals now before his department a further 15 other projects were also being considered.

"There is a great deal of life left in the North Sea. Speculation about when Britain will no longer be self-sufficient is premature. What I can predict is that we will remain a substantial producer well into the next century," he said.

Mr Parkinson told the Energy Industries Council that the pace of projects being brought forward will depend on market conditions.

US hotel group to expand in Britain

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Quality International, the Washington-based US hotels operator which claims to be the third largest chain in the industry worldwide, is doubling the size of its British interests with property investment plans worth more than £200 million.

By 1990, it aims to have a chain of 50 hotels, which will include a £150 million plan for 15 new properties in the three-to-four-star category.

Quality is also bringing to Britain its McSleep concept of quality bedrooms in a "simplicity" package, with virtually no services that could mean a cost to visitors of little more than £20 a night. The first McSleep hotel is expected to open next year.

This is a market already being exploited successfully alongside main traffic routes in Britain by Trusthouse Forte

Greenspan urges US petrol tax

From Bailey Morris Washington

Mr Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve Board chairman, yesterday urged Congress to consider a 15 cent per gallon petrol tax which would produce annual revenues of \$15 billion (£8.47 million).

He was calling for a national effort to reduce the \$150 billion US deficit in testimony to the US House Budget Committee.

Mr Greenspan said that in addition to badly needed revenues a petrol tax would restrain energy use. He was opposed to an oil import fee.

A study by Harvard University's Energy and Environmental Policy Center said there was a possibility of severe oil shortages by the 1990s and predicted prices were likely to rise to more than \$30 a barrel from \$18.

Uncivil war of words

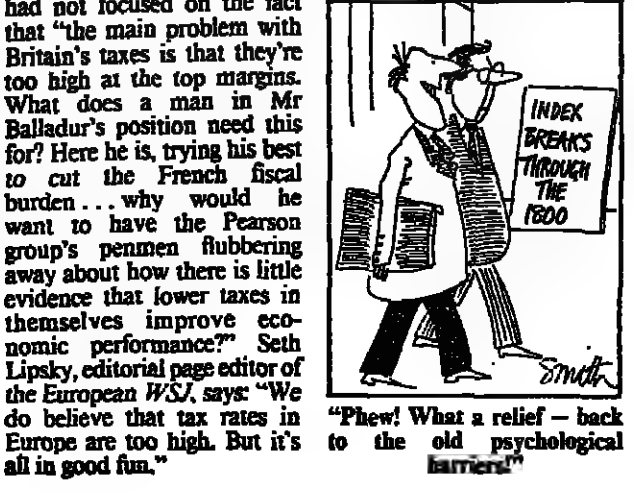
War has erupted again in the rival columns of the *Wall Street Journal* and the *Financial Times* over how much to levy from Europe's taxpayers. It is a feisty tale stretching back over more than a year, in which newspapers have dropped their patriotic habit of giving governments the benefit of their wisdom and taken to arguing with each other instead. A skirmish between the two newspapers' top writers in July 1986 was followed by a meatier engagement four months later. The gauntlet was provided by a punchy editorial in the *Sunday Times*, praising what it saw as the proven benefits of higher tax regimes. The *Financial Times* begged to differ. Its dissenting article sneered at further tax cuts, dismissing them sarcastically as a "stunning, entirely new economic cure-all" and a "perpetual motion machine and a wholesome free lunch". This proved too much for the *Wall Street Journal's* mandarins: in its riposte, called "The FT's Goat", the American newspaper jibed at the FT for being wrongheadedly lukewarm about tax cuts, gasping: "You have to pinch yourself to remember you're reading Britain's leading financial daily and not a tract of the *Militant Tendency*." Oh dear. Now the *Journal* is rampaging again. In yesterday's European edition of the paper, a leader entitled "The FT's Problem" returned to the tax cuts battle behind the gossamer veil of explaining why the French finance minister, Edouard

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Playing hard to get

One reason why Patrick Sheehy, the chairman of BAT, has dived so long before officially filing a takeover bid for the US insurance group Farmers, is that Mr Leo Denlea, Farmers' 55-year-old chairman, has been rather shy about meeting his suitors from the British group. This is a matter of some frustration for Sheehy and the cause of the

Balladur might be wary of allowing Pearson, the FT's owner, to buy the French financial daily *Les Echos*. What got the WSJ's goat was a midweek leader in which the *Financial Times* offered some budgetary tax advice to Mr Lawson. The *Journal* was struck that "Her Majesty's socialist, or whoever else pens the editorials" at the FT had not focused on the fact that "the main problem with Britain's taxes is that they're too high at the top margins. What does a man in Mr Balladur's position need this for? Here he is, trying his best to cut the French fiscal burden... why would he want to have the Pearson group's penmen flubbing away about how there is little evidence that lower taxes in themselves improve economic performance?" Seth Lipsky, editorial page editor of the European *WSJ*, says: "We do believe that tax rates in Europe are too high. But it's all in good fun."



Banking on the arts

Despite busy crowds at the Royal Academy of Arts in Piccadilly for the last few days of the *Age of Chivalry* exhibition, it seems that the show will probably cost its sponsor, Lloyds Bank, at least half of the £400,000 guarantee it put up to help stage the much-praised display of art in Plantagenet England. "Over 300,000 visitors have seen it," says Norman Rosenthal, the RA's exhibitions secretary, "and the doors will be open till 9 o'clock on the last two days this Saturday and Sunday to accommodate the late rush. Numbers have picked up tremendously. None the less, staging the exhibition has been incredibly expensive and the attendances in the first two months were not as happy as we would have hoped."

Rosenthal and the RA have developed a successful system of asking corporate sponsors to underwrite rather than fully finance exhibitions, giving their backers a chance of limiting their investment. Sir Jeremy Morse, Lloyds' chairman, is rightly proud that his bank sponsored the exhibition, and the likely loss seems slim indeed against the kudos earned, the publicity gained and, especially, the whopping £248 million that Lloyds lost last year. Given a choice between writing off another £1 billion in bad debts to fickle Third World borrowers and sponsoring another landmark exhibition, it is difficult to imagine many Lloyds shareholders dithering over the decision.

Joe Joseph

Standard settles libel action against FT

A libel action by Standard Chartered Bank over a *Financial Times* article, which could have implied that the bank orchestrated an unlawful share-support operation while fending off a takeover bid by Lloyds, was settled in the High Court yesterday.

The FT expressed regret for any damage and embarrassment caused by the unintentional implications of the story, and agreed to contribute towards Standard's legal costs.

The February 1987 article by Mr Clive Wolman said four key purchasers of Standard shares each had about £100 million in loans from the bank when the takeover was being defended, and that additional loans to one purchaser were approved as part of a "carefully planned and orchestrated share-support operation".

Mr Andrew Caldecott, counsel for Standard, said a Bank of England investigation — requested by Standard — had since vindicated the bank.

Miss Adrienne Page for the FT said it intended only to convey that there were important questions to be answered as to whether there may have been breaches of company law.

Liffe set for change

The London International Financial Futures Exchange (Liffe) is planning to change its capital structure in a bid to expand trading volume in its less actively traded contracts.

The objective is to create a share capital structure for the Exchange, and to follow this with a rights issue designed to increase the trading capacity of the exchange, according to a Liffe circular to members.

Mr Michael Jenkins, chief executive, said that it had become virtually impossible to get new members into the exchange because few seats are available and because of their high price.

The last agreed seat sale was at a price of £220,000 in January, compared with £20,000 when the exchange was set up five years ago.

The "Shell" Transport and Trading Company, Public Limited Company

Final dividend 1987

Notice is hereby given that a balance of the Register will be struck on Thursday, 24th March, 1988 for the preparation of warrants for a Final dividend for the year 1987 of 31.5p per 25p Ordinary Share. If approved at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 11th May, 1988 the dividend will be paid on 16th May, 1988.

For transferees to receive this dividend, their transfers must be lodged with the Company's Registrar, Lloyds Bank Plc, Registrar's Department, Goring-by-Sea, Worthing, West Sussex, BN12 6DA, not later than 3.00 p.m. on 24th March, 1988.

SHARE WARRANTS TO BEARER

The Coupon to be presented for the above dividend will be No. 178 which must be deposited for examination at Lloyds Bank Plc, Registrar's Department, Issue Section, 11, Bishopsgate, London EC2N 3LB, at least five clear days before the payment date or may be surrendered through MM. Lazard Frères, Paris.

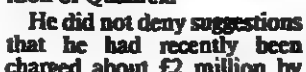
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

D. W. Chesterman
Company Secretary

Shell Centre,
London, SE1 7NA
3rd March, 1988

The company reported half-year pretax profits up from £2.5 million to £3.5 million. This included a profit of more than £1 million on the sale of a Wapping warehouse. Turnover rose from £14.8 million to £15.3 million. An interim dividend of 1.1p will be paid.

Mr Klesch said that despite the lack of support from Citicorp and Midland Montagu, Quadrex continued to use the two banks for other business. The withdrawal of their credit lines had nothing



Mr Klesch added that if he took legal action against "others," these might include institutions in other countries.

In 1964-73, productivity growth in Britain, at 2.6 per cent a year, lagged behind France, West Germany, Italy, Japan and Sweden. In the 1973-79 period, productivity growth in Britain slipped to 1.2 per cent a year and, in spite

But the *Review* says that

On research and development, Britain is said to devote too high a proportion of R&D spending to defence.

Mr Matthews' report is expected to argue that companies which use IT have a considerable advantage over

However, the about-face brought a savage attack from the Opposition National Party, which described the government's manoeuvrings as crude and bizarre, and likely to damage New Zealand's credibility.

1987

Sales	£2,031m	+10%
Trading Profit	£180m	+28%
Pre-tax Profit	£176m	+34%
Earnings per Share	19.0p	+33%
Dividend per Share	8.0p	+19%

- Sales and market share up in all major markets.
- Trading margins up from 7.6% to 8.9%.
- Coca-Cola & Schweppes Beverages Limited off to an excellent start in UK.
- Strategic acquisitions made internationally in beverages and confectionery.
- Over £400m invested in Cadbury Schweppes' brands and acquisitions.
- Board confident of 1988 prospects.

Adrian Cadbury
Chairman

Cadbury Schweppes

RECENT ISSUES			
EQUITIES			
AMI Healthcare (215p)	270-3	Norfolk House (100p)	108
Alld Restaurants	83	Orsted (85p)	66
Anchor (AGS) (330p)	125	Shakespeare (180p)	146-2
Ass-Hanquags 71np	125	Shenka McGowan (150p)	79
Aulent Ass (85p)	125	Storbo	118
Brit Pet P/P	63-1/2	TGI (130p)	132
Carroll Phoenix (120p)	150	TP Europe	140-82
Coppyrns (134p)	305-10	Titan Gold (80p)	78
Eurotunnel	23-1	Waverley Mining	
Eurotunnel Writs	82		
Fairway London	421		
Gardiner Gac (30p)	128-11		
Hend Rock Cate	41		
Do 'A'	135		
Harfield Est (100p)	113		
Hughes (HT)	113		
ISA Intl (80p)	113		
Inshops (52p)	96		
Lon Fortaning (180p)	166		

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
February 29	March 11	June 6	June 13
Call options were taken out on: 3/3/88 Eurotunnel, Helens of London, ADT, Cambium Vemura, Barratt Developments, Wharney, Sound Diffusion, Storm Mersey Docks, Scottish & Newcastle, Eagle Trust.			

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Coke						Coke						Pigs								
Series						Series						Series								
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun			
Alloy Lysen (304)	330	46	78	-	5	1	5	13	18	20	20	Glenco	550	155	133	225	2	13	25	37
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Alloy Lysen (304)	330	46	78	-	5	1	5	13	18	20	20	Glenco	550	155	133	225	2	13	25	37
Alloy Lysen (304)	330	46	78	-	5	1	5	13	18	20	20	Glenco	550	155	133	225	2	13	25	37
Alloy Lysen (304)	330	46	78	-	5	1	5	13	18	20	20	Glenco	550	155	133	225	2	13	25	37
Alloy Lysen (304)	330	46	78	-	5	1	5	13	18	20	20	Glenco	550	155	133	225	2	13	25	37
Alloy Lysen (304)	330	46	78	-	5	1	5	13	18	20	20	Glenco	550	155	133	225	2	13	25	37
Alloy Lysen (304)	330	46	78	-	5	1	5	13	18	20	20	Glenco	550	155	133	225	2	13	25	37
Alloy Lysen (304)	330	46	78	-	5	1	5	13	18	20	20	Glenco	550	155	133	225	2	13	25	37
Alloy Lysen (304)	330	46	78	-	5	1	5	13	18	20	20	Glenco	550	155	133	225	2	13	25	37
Alloy Lysen (304)	330	46	78	-	5	1	5	13	18	20	20	Glenco	550	155	133	225	2	13	25	37
Alloy Lysen (304)	330	46	78	-	5	1	5	13	18	20	20	Glenco	550	155	133	225	2	13	25	37
Alloy Lysen (304)	330	46	78	-	5	1	5	13	18	20	20	Glenco	550	155	133	225	2	13	25	37
Alloy Lysen (304)	330	46	78	-	5	1	5	13	18	20	20	Glenco	550	155	133	225	2	13	25	37
Alloy Lysen (304)	330	46	78	-	5	1	5	13	18	20	20	Glenco	550	155	133	225	2	13	25	37
Alloy Lysen (304)	330	46	78	-	5	1	5	13	18	20	20	Glenco	550	155	133	225	2	13	25	37
Alloy Lysen (304)	330	46	78	-	5	1	5	13	18	20	20	Glenco	550	155	133	225	2	13	25	37
Alloy Lysen (304)	330	46	78	-	5	1	5	13	18	20	20	Glenco	550	155	133	225	2	13	25	37
Alloy Lysen (304)	330	46	78	-	5	1	5	13	18	20	20	Glenco	550	155	133	225	2	13	25	37
Alloy Lysen (304)	330	46	78	-	5	1	5	13	18	20	20	Glenco	550	155	133	225	2	13	25	37
Alloy Lysen (304)	330	46	78	-	5	1	5	13	18	20	20	Glenco	550	155	133	225	2	13	25	37
Alloy Lysen (304)	330	46	78	-	5	1	5	13	18	20	20	Glenco	550	155	13					

Portfolio

PLUS NEW

Accumulator

From your Portfolio gold card check your share price movements, on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily or accumulator dividend figures. If it matches or better this figure you have won outright or a share of the daily or accumulator prize money stand. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Lynton Prop	Property	
2	Bass (as)	Breweries	
3	Heston	Industrials-E-K	
4	Whitbread Inv	Breweries	
5	RMC Gp (as)	Building/Roads	
6	Walter, Greenham	Industrials-S-Z	
7	Lovell (VJ)	Building/Roads	
8	Erskine Hse	Industrials-E-K	
9	Coat	Industrials-A-D	
10	Pratt Marans	Property	
11	Cellars (Wm)	Newspapers/Pub	
12	Quack (M)	Motor/Aircraft	
13	Hilldown (as)	Food	
14	Br Dredging	Building/Roads	
15	Mowlem (as)	Building/Roads	
16	Church Charles	Building/Roads	
17	Wimpey (George)	Building/Roads	
18	S & U Stores	Draper/Stores	
19	MBS	Electricals	
20	Br Aerospace (as)	Motor/Aircraft	
21	Mennet	Electricals	
22	Deco	Industrials-E-K	
23	Telfos	Industrials-S-Z	
24	Turner	Building/Roads	
25	Simon Eng	Industrials-S-Z	
26	Smith WHI 'A'	Draper/Stores	
27	AB Food (as)	Food	
28	Ford Motor	Motor/Aircraft	
29	LASMO (as)	Food	
30	Neill JI	Industrials-L-R	
31	Trinoco	Motor/Aircraft	
32	Burnham (as)	Oil/Gas	
33	Rockware	Industrials-L-R	
34	Saver	Industrials-S-Z	
35	Greenall Wholes	Breweries	
36	Lowes HS & B	Paper/Print/Adv	
37	T & N (as)	Industrials-S-Z	
38	Lep	Industrials-L-R	
39	Canon St	Industrials-A-D	
40	Tesco (as)	Food	
41	Perrin Gp	Motor/Aircraft	
42	Saatchi (as)	Paper/Print/Adv	
43	GKN (as)	Industrials-E-K	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £3,000 in tomorrow's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

BRITISH FUNDS

1987/88 High Low Stock Price Change % P/E

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Lynton Prop	Property	
2	Bass (as)	Breweries	
3	Heston	Industrials-E-K	
4	Whitbread Inv	Breweries	
5	RMC Gp (as)	Building/Roads	
6	Walter, Greenham	Industrials-S-Z	
7	Lovell (VJ)	Building/Roads	
8	Erskine Hse	Industrials-E-K	
9	Coat	Industrials-A-D	
10	Pratt Marans	Property	
11	Cellars (Wm)	Newspapers/Pub	
12	Quack (M)	Motor/Aircraft	
13	Hilldown (as)	Food	
14	Br Dredging	Building/Roads	
15	Mowlem (as)	Building/Roads	
16	Church Charles	Building/Roads	
17	Wimpey (George)	Building/Roads	
18	S & U Stores	Draper/Stores	
19	MBS	Electricals	
20	Br Aerospace (as)	Motor/Aircraft	
21	Mennet	Electricals	
22	Deco	Industrials-E-K	
23	Telfos	Industrials-S-Z	
24	Turner	Building/Roads	
25	Simon Eng	Industrials-S-Z	
26	Smith WHI 'A'	Draper/Stores	
27	AB Food (as)	Food	
28	Ford Motor	Motor/Aircraft	
29	LASMO (as)	Food	
30	Neill JI	Industrials-L-R	
31	Trinoco	Motor/Aircraft	
32	Burnham (as)	Oil/Gas	
33	Rockware	Industrials-L-R	
34	Saver	Industrials-S-Z	
35	Greenall Wholes	Breweries	
36	Lowes HS & B	Paper/Print/Adv	
37	T & N (as)	Industrials-S-Z	
38	Lep	Industrials-L-R	
39	Canon St	Industrials-A-D	
40	Tesco (as)	Food	
41	Perrin Gp	Motor/Aircraft	
42	Saatchi (as)	Paper/Print/Adv	
43	GKN (as)	Industrials-E-K	

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Lynton Prop	Property	
2	Bass (as)	Breweries	
3	Heston	Industrials-E-K	
4	Whitbread Inv	Breweries	
5	RMC Gp (as)	Building/Roads	
6	Walter, Greenham	Industrials-S-Z	
7	Lovell (VJ)	Building/Roads	
8	Erskine Hse	Industrials-E-K	
9	Coat	Industrials-A-D	
10	Pratt Marans	Property	
11	Cellars (Wm)	Newspapers/Pub	
12	Quack (M)	Motor/Aircraft	
13	Hilldown (as)	Food	
14	Br Dredging	Building/Roads	
15	Mowlem (as)	Building/Roads	
16	Church Charles	Building/Roads	
17	Wimpey (George)	Building/Roads	
18	S & U Stores	Draper/Stores	
19	MBS	Electricals	
20	Br Aerospace (as)	Motor/Aircraft	
21	Mennet	Electricals	
22	Deco	Industrials-E-K	
23	Telfos	Industrials-S-Z	
24	Turner	Building/Roads	
25	Simon Eng	Industrials-S-Z	
26	Smith WHI 'A'	Draper/Stores	
27	AB Food (as)	Food	
28	Ford Motor	Motor/Aircraft	
29	LASMO (as)	Food	
30	Neill JI	Industrials-L-R	
31	Trinoco	Motor/Aircraft	
32	Burnham (as)	Oil/Gas	
33	Rockware	Industrials-L-R	
34	Saver	Industrials-S-Z	
35	Greenall Wholes	Breweries	
36	Lowes HS & B	Paper/Print/Adv	
37	T & N (as)	Industrials-S-Z	
38	Lep	Industrials-L-R	
39	Canon St	Industrials-A-D	
40	Tesco (as)	Food	
41	Perrin Gp	Motor/Aircraft	
42	Saatchi (as)	Paper/Print/Adv	
43	GKN (as)	Industrials-E-K	

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Lynton Prop	Property	
2	Bass (as)	Breweries	
3	Heston	Industrials-E-K	
4	Whitbread Inv	Breweries	
5	RMC Gp (as)	Building/Roads	
6	Walter, Greenham	Industrials-S-Z	
7	Lovell (VJ)	Building/Roads	
8	Erskine Hse	Industrials-E-K	
9	Coat	Industrials-A-D	
10	Pratt Marans	Property	
11	Cellars (Wm)	Newspapers/Pub	
12	Quack (M)	Motor/Aircraft	
13	Hilldown (as)	Food	
14	Br Dredging	Building/Roads	
15	Mowlem (as)	Building/Roads	
16	Church Charles	Building/Roads	
17	Wimpey (George)	Building/Roads	
18	S & U Stores	Draper/Stores	
19	MBS	Electricals	
20	Br Aerospace (as)	Motor/Aircraft	
21	Mennet	Electricals	
22	Deco	Industrials-E-K	
23	Telfos	Industrials-S-Z	
24	Turner	Building/Roads	
25	Simon Eng	Industrials-S-Z	
26	Smith WHI 'A'	Draper/Stores	
27	AB Food (as)	Food	
28	Ford Motor	Motor/Aircraft	
29	LASMO (as)	Food	
30	Neill JI	Industrials-L-R	
31	Trinoco	Motor/Aircraft	
32	Burnham (as)	Oil/Gas	
33	Rockware	Industrials-L-R	
34	Saver	Industrials-S-Z	
35	Greenall Wholes	Breweries	
36	Lowes HS & B	Paper/Print/Adv	
37	T & N (as)	Industrials-S-Z	
38	Lep	Industrials-L-R	
39	Canon St	Industrials-A-D	
40	Tesco (as)	Food	
41	Perrin Gp	Motor/Aircraft	
42	Saatchi (as)	Paper/Print/Adv	
43	GKN (as)	Industrials-E-K	

UNDATED

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Lynton Prop	Property	
2	Bass (as)	Breweries	
3	Heston	Industrials-E-K	
4	Whitbread Inv	Breweries	
5	RMC Gp (as)	Building/Roads	
6	Walter, Greenham	Industrials-S-Z	
7	Lovell (VJ)	Building/Roads	
8	Erskine Hse	Industrials-E-K	
9	Coat	Industrials-A-D	
10	Pratt Marans	Property	
11	Cellars (Wm)	Newspapers/Pub	
12	Quack (M)	Motor/Aircraft	
13	Hilldown (as)	Food	
14	Br Dredging	Building/Roads	
15	Mowlem (as)	Building/Roads	
16	Church Charles	Building/Roads	
17	Wimpey (George)	Building/Roads	
18	S & U Stores	Draper/Stores	
19	MBS	Electricals	
20	Br Aerospace (as)	Motor/Aircraft	
21	Mennet	Electricals	
22	Deco	Industrials-E-K	
23	Telfos	Industrials-S-Z	
24	Turner	Building/Roads	
25	Simon Eng	Industrials-S-Z	
26	Smith WHI 'A'	Draper/Stores	
27	AB Food (as)	Food	
28	Ford Motor	Motor/Aircraft	
29	LASMO (as)	Food	
30	Neill JI	Industrials-L-R	
31	Trinoco	Motor/Aircraft	
32	Burnham (as)	Oil/Gas	
33	Rockware	Industrials-L-R	
34	Saver	Industrials-S-Z	
35	Greenall Wholes	Breweries	
36	Lowes HS & B	Paper/Print/Adv	
37	T & N (as)	Industrials-S-Z	
38	Lep	Industrials-L-R	
39	Canon St	Industrials-A-D	
40	Tesco (as)	Food	
41	Perrin Gp	Motor/Aircraft	
42	Saatchi (as)	Paper/Print/Adv	
43	GKN (as)	Industrials-E-K	

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Lynton Prop	Property	
2	Bass (as)	Breweries	
3	Heston	Industrials-E-K	
4	Whitbread Inv	Breweries	
5	RMC Gp (as)	Building/Roads	
6	Walter, Greenham	Industrials-S-Z	
7	Lovell (VJ)	Building/Roads	
8	Erskine Hse	Industrials-E-K	
9	Coat	Industrials-A-D	
10	Pratt Marans	Property	
11	Cellars (Wm)	Newspapers/Pub	
12	Quack (M)	Motor/Aircraft	
13	Hilldown (as)	Food	
14	Br Dredging	Building/Roads	
15	Mowlem (as)	Building/Roads	
16	Church Charles	Building/Roads	
17	Wimpey (George)	Building/Roads	
18	S & U Stores	Draper/Stores	
19	MBS	Electricals	
20	Br Aerospace (as)	Motor/Aircraft	
21	Mennet	Electricals	
22	Deco	Industrials-E-K	
23	Telfos	Industrials-S-Z	
24	Turner	Building/Roads	
25	Simon Eng	Industrials-S-Z	
26	Smith WHI 'A'	Draper/Stores	
27	AB Food (as)	Food	
28	Ford Motor	Motor/Aircraft	
29	LASMO (as)	Food	
30	Neill JI	Industrials-L-R	
31	Trinoco	Motor/Aircraft	
32	Burnham (as)	Oil/Gas	
33	Rockware	Industrials-L-R	
34	Saver	Industrials-S-Z	
35	Greenall Wholes	Breweries	
36	Lowes HS & B	Paper/Print/Adv	
37	T & N (as)	Industrials-S-Z	
38	Lep	Industrials-L-R	
39	Canon St	Industrials-A-D	
40	Tesco (as)	Food	
41	Perrin Gp	Motor/Aircraft	
42	Saatchi (as)	Paper/Print/Adv	
43	GKN (as)	Industrials-E-K	

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares edge higher

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began February 22. Dealings end tomorrow. \$Contango day March 7. Settlement day March 14.
\$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (as) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 24).

BREWERS

No.	Company	Price	Change	%	P/E
1	Lynton Prop	120.00	+1.00	+0.8%	12.5
2	Bass (as)	115.00	+1.00	+0.9%	11.5
3	Heston	110.00	+1.00	+0.9%	11.0
4	Whitbread Inv	105.00	+1.00	+0.9%	10.5
5	RMC Gp (as)	100.00	+1.00	+1.0%	10.0
6	Walter, Greenham	95.00	+1.00	+1.1%	9.5
7	Lovell (VJ)	90.00	+1.00	+1.1%	9.0
8	Erskine Hse	85.00	+1.00	+1.2%	8.5
9	Coat	80.00	+1.00	+1.3%	8.0
10	Pratt Marans	75.00	+1.00	+1.3%	7.5
11	Cellars (Wm)	70.00	+1.00	+1.4%	7.0
12	Quack (M)	65.00	+1.00	+1.5%	6.5
13	Hilldown (as)	60.00	+1.00	+1.7%	6.0
14	Br Dredging	55.00	+1.00	+1.8%	5.5
15	Mowlem (as)	50.00	+1.00	+2.0%	5.0
16	Church Charles	45.00	+1.00	+2.2%	4.5
17	Wimpey (George)	40.00	+1.00	+2.5%	4.0
18	S & U Stores	35.00	+1.00	+2.9%	3.5
19	MBS	30.00	+1.00	+3.3%	3.0
20	Br Aerospace (as)	25.00	+1.00	+4.0%	2.5
21	Mennet	20.00	+1.00	+5.0%	2.0
22	Deco	15.00	+1.00	+6.7%	1.5
23	Telfos	10.00	+1.00	+10.0%	1.0
24	Turner	5.00	+1.00	+20.0%	0.5

BUILDING, ROADS

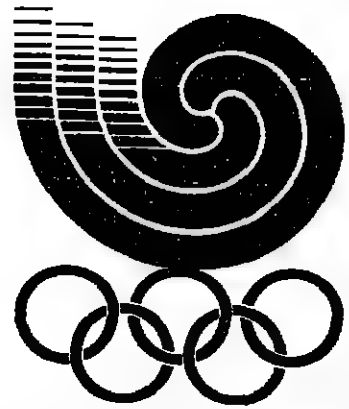
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SOUTH KOREA

FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT
Edited by Judith Parsons

Trade is the name of the Games



GAMES OF THE XXIV OLYMPIAD SEOUL 1988

From Gavin Bell
in Seoul

The BBC, the Han Sung Enterprise Company and Captain Nikolai Usov of the Soviet Navy have been caught up in an extraordinary event. Individually, they may be said to indicate the cultural, economic and political benefits which South Korea expects to reap from the Seoul Olympics in September.

Every day, selected members of the organizing committee (SLOOC) improve their English by tuning in to a BBC course entitled "Olympic English."

Across the city, Han Sung executives are anticipating international renown for their company, which has been designated an official supplier (of king crab meat) to the Games.

Captain Usov, a naval attaché in Tokyo, recently became the first Soviet military officer to attend a reception at a South Korean embassy. His presence was seen as a clear sign of improving relations between Seoul and the communist bloc, fostered by the approaching Olympics.

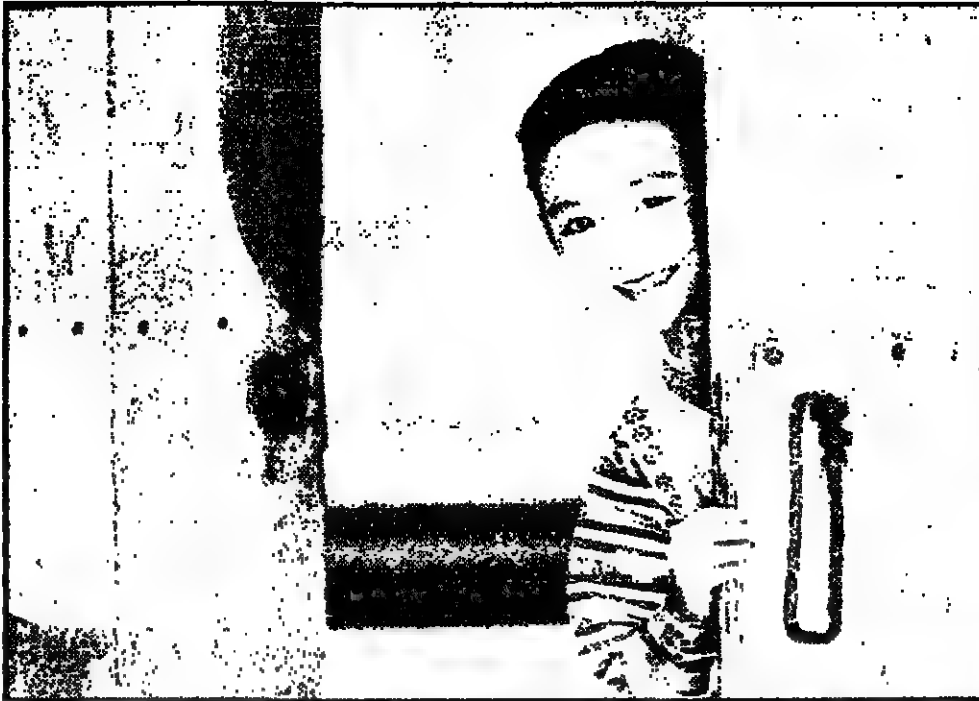
For South Korea, the Games of the XXIV Olympiad are far more than an international sports meeting. They are an unrivalled opportunity to gain a cherished place in the league of advanced industrial nations, and to forge important trade and political links with the hitherto closed communist world.

The opening ceremony on September 17 will be, in effect, a giant "coming-out" party for the erstwhile Hermit Kingdom. With 161 nations accepting their invitations, it is already assured more guests, participating in more sports, than any Games in Olympic history.

The organizers had a significant advantage in that most of the competition sites were completed in time for the Asian Games in Seoul in 1986. Work is proceeding on schedule on the only new venue in the Olympic Park, an indoor swimming pool with capacity for 10,000 spectators.

The other major construction projects are high-rise "villages" adjacent to the Park which will accommodate 20,000 athletes, officials and journalists. The logistics of equipping them are awesome.

Apart from 290,000 square me-



Korea today: a traditional welcome as preparations for the Olympic village, above right, approach completion despite the country's tense political backdrop leading up to last month's elections

tres of curtain, local suppliers have been working overtime to provide 70,000 square metres of carpet, 110,000 bed sheets, 360,000 bars of soap, and 1,780 extra-long beds for the likes of basketball giants.

Supply contracts and sponsorship deals have provided Korean manufacturers with their first tangible benefits from the Games, but already they are looking farther afield towards lucrative overseas markets.

"The opportunity will be there for Korean companies to associate themselves with an event that evokes images of excellence," says Kim Bumil, marketing director of the SLOOC. "It's a tremendous marketing advantage."

Some may have more realistic prospects of foreign trade than others. While Hyundai motor cars and Goldstar television sets may be much admired, it is doubtful whether the Seoul Miwon Company will be in the same export league. It has the dubious distinction of being the official Games



supplier of monosodium glutamate.

International attention drawn by the Olympics has begun to pay dividends. Poland and Hungary have agreed to open trade offices in Seoul in March, the first eastern bloc nations to do so, and it is hoped that East Germany and Czechoslovakia will follow suit.

A Soviet official with semi-consular status will be stationed in the capital for the first time during the Games.

By far the biggest commercial prize, however, is Beijing. There are signs that the Bamboo Curtain

over the Yellow Sea is parting in preparation for direct trade and investment, and the Olympics will provide an ideal opportunity to open it further in discreet discussions with visiting Chinese officials.

In political terms, the tentative rapprochement between the enemies of the 1950-53 Korean War, and with Moscow and its east European allies, promises a subtle but significant shift in the regional power balance of north-east Asia.

Any moves which might weaken Chinese and Soviet support for North Korea will be

welcomed, and exploited fully, in Seoul in September.

None of this, of course, will be evident to the thousands of sports fans planning to converge on Seoul to cheer on their medal hopes.

Every morning, 300 drivers of the Il-Jin Taxi Company gather to chant in unison phrases such as "welcome to Seoul", and "where to, sir?"

The 2,000-year-old city is sprucing itself up for an anticipated 230,000 visitors during the Olympic extravaganza. Millions of dollars have been spent cleaning up

The Hermit Kingdom is opening its doors

the polluted Han River flowing through the city, and landscaping its banks with game parks and nature trails.

Thousands of new street lights are being installed, and factories near the Games venues have been ordered to suspend or curtail operations from 10 days before the opening ceremony.

In their efforts to promote tourism, hoteliers and convention organizers refer to the Olympiad as the "Second Coming", the first being the 1986 Asian Games. By any standards, 1988 will be a record-breaking year for them.

Suh Chungdo, an official of the Korea National Tourism Corporation, is confident of booming business: "Of the entire service industry, we expect the accommodation and convention industry to be perhaps the greatest beneficiary of the Olympic Games."

He adds: "We've touted our economic prowess, and it's time to flaunt our culture now."

Even with the construction of 26 new hotels in Seoul by September, the city will be bursting at the seams judging by advance reservations. All but 900 of the 29,400 available hotel rooms have been booked for the Olympic period, and the authorities are inspecting thousands of traditional inns and private homes for accommodating the influx of visitors.

In view of the simmering dispute with North Korea, they will be protected by probably the tightest security in Olympic history. An elite corps of 60,000 police and military guards has been formed to foil terrorist attacks, and a carrier battle group from the US Pacific fleet will be deployed in coastal waters.

Meanwhile the organizers and hostesses continue to brush up their English. If any of them acquire a BBC accent, you will know why.

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SOUTH KOREA/2

FOCUS

The general who had to give in

When strongman Chun dropped his reforms, much of the middle class sided with the growing opposition

General Chun Doo Hwan is an unlikely figure to have presided over the democratization of South Korea. Though aloof and formal, financial scandals have tarnished his claim to represent a new beginning in Korean politics, and his response to critics and dissidents has been heavy-handed and uncomprehending writes James Cotton.

His plans to create a political machine, the Democratic Justice Party (DJP), to which power could be passed following the completion of his seven-year term of strict military rule this February while the opposition was hamstrung by house arrest, were transparent in their intention.

But despite his best efforts, he will go down in post-war Korean history as the first president to achieve full constitutional transfer of power.

In April 1987 the shortcomings of his approach to the problems of state, threatened to prevent him from attaining his grand objective. He was saved, however, by opponents even less committed to democracy than himself.

After a bitterly fought campaign, the opposition had managed by May 1986 to drag the issue of genuine constitutional reform on to the political agenda. There it remained, since neither side could agree on the appropriate means to achieve the agreed end.

The general's firmness finally caused irreconcilable divisions among the congeries of personal factions which made up the opposition New Korea Democratic Party. Those of Kim Dae-Jung and Kim Young-Sam, popularly known as the two Kims, then regrouped, but Chun used the issue not to push through his own scheme but to abandon reform altogether.

This finally galvanized the opposition into action. It also widened the cast of political characters beyond student and political activists to include significant numbers of the burgeoning Korean middle classes and the formerly corporatized and quiescent labour movement.

When Roh Tae Woo, Chun's closest associate and chosen successor, announced his willingness to accept the main demands of the two opposition Kims — most notably direct presidential election under a new constitution — it appeared that the rise of new forces in Korean politics was inexorable.

On July 1 Chun agreed to accept a series of sweeping



The political line up: Opposition rivals Kim Dae-Jung, left, and Kim Young-Sam, centre. Right, President Roh Tae Woo reforms put forward by Roh. Overnight, Roh was transformed from an authoritarian successor to a champion of democracy.

In retrospect, Roh's decision was a shrewd one. It must have been clear to him, if not to the general, that many Koreans were unhappy to return to the dictatorial politics of the past. He must also have weighed carefully opinion in the United States. Though he probably considered the military option, there were signs that the officer corps were unhappy with the prospects of taking another direct role in politics.

The impending Seoul Olympics has forced Roh's hand, since increasing civil disorder, with or without military intervention to quell it, would have sabotaged the Games. This would have tarnished the image of the nation and made a mockery of the regime's succession at a crucial juncture.

Seoul's role as the Games host is a source of prestige. It was also sought as a means of opening contacts with communist North Korea and as a message to the international community that Korea has finally come of age.

At the same time, by presenting the initiative for democracy as his own personal contribution to Korean political development, Roh hoped to win some credibility on his own account.

It was at this point last summer that he could see that he needed to make his mark if he was to have any hope of winning the middle ground of popular opinion.



Logo of the 1988 Seoul Olympics

Nor is he unaware of the availability to him of the advantages of incumbency, many of which could be manipulated even in a more democratic climate.

Roh's trump card was given to him by his opponents. Although the two Kims were allied at the time of his concession to their demands in a newly formed party, Roh knew that there was little prospect of either opposition Kim allowing the other to run alone in a presidential race.

Their insistence however that only a strong presidential executive was appropriate for a democratized Korea almost

guaranteed that their rivalry would emerge yet again.

Roh's assessment of the situation was correct. Even before the new democratic constitution received ratification, the two Kims were running against each other.

At this point North Korean involvement made an unforeseen contribution. Evidence suggests that Pyongyang was behind the sabotage of a Korean airliner on a flight from Baghdad on November 29. Though probably aimed at heightening uncertainty over the Olympics, this act may have been deliberate, with the hope of provoking a conservative backlash in South Korea.

In many respects North Korea's implacable confrontation with Seoul is made more credible if the country continues to be ruled by a former military figure.

After a violent and unruly campaign which dominated the world press, presidential elections were held on December 16. To the disappointment of many Koreans, regionalism and personal rivalry were the chief victors. With an extraordinarily high turnout of more than 89 per cent of the registered voters, Roh won a plurality with 35.9 per cent. The followings of Kim Dae-Jung and Kim Young-Sam achieved 26.5 per cent and 27.5 per cent respectively.

The provincial distribution of this vote was particularly noteworthy since it demonstrated clearly that regional loyalties were the strongest determinant of voting behaviour in much of the country.

Although the regional pow-

er bases of both the opposition Kims were insufficient to give them victory, particularly in the light of the apparently wide distribution of Roh's supporters, the opposition would in all probability have triumphed if they had offered a single candidate to the electorate.

Events since the election demonstrate that few lessons have been learned. Although electoral reform is vital if the forthcoming National Assembly elections in April are to be a fair test of opinion, the opposition factions have indulged in an unseemly public wrangle each putting forward reforms which would maximize their own advantage.

The astute Roh has adopted a magnanimous and conciliatory pose, which is winning him an increasing number of plaudits. A national body to reconcile opinion has been constituted, past police abuses are being investigated, the government has refrained from interfering directly in the reorganization of labour, and Roh has offered the opposition some cabinet posts.

If he accomplishes the many reforms he has promised, Roh may yet be undone by his own success. Though a democratic South Korea may go the way of Japan in producing a dominant governing party committed to rapid economic transformation, even democracy of this variety requires an institutionalized opposition. Roh's most difficult task will be to provide the conditions for this to come about.

James Cotton is Deputy Director of the East Asia Centre, University of Newcastle upon Tyne.

Roh's part in ending years of rigid state control

In just a few fateful months last year, Roh Tae Woo effected a remarkable transition from prominent member of an authoritarian regime to the elected champion of democracy in South Korea.

It is a measure of his political skill that his victory over a more popular opposition in presidential elections has been generally accepted by the public, which apparently shares his vision of gradual reforms with stability, writes Gavin Bell.

In his campaign, Roh, aged 55, fought a successful rearguard action against his own past. The son of a poor farmer in the southern province of Kyongsang, his political career has its origins within the country's powerful military establishment.

He was a classmate of former President Chun Doo Hwan at the prestigious Korean Military Academy, and together the two young officers attended a psychological warfare course in the United States.

In 1980, as an army division commander, Roh moved his troops from a front-line position facing North Korea to Seoul to support Chun's seizure of power in a bloodless coup. A few months later, he was in command of an elite garrison in the capital when other troops killed almost 200 people in an anti-government uprising in the southern city of Kwangju.

His close relationship with Chun continued after he retired as a four-star general in 1981. Appointed successively Minister of State for political, national security and foreign

affairs, sports minister and interior minister, he eventually became chairman of the ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP).

It was from this position last July that Roh persuaded his mentor to yield to civilian revolt and accept sweeping democratic reforms, thereby ending four decades of autocratic rule.

Controversy persists between those who admire Roh as a sincere liberal reformer and those who regard him as a political opportunist with a murky military past. However, he has been gaining popular support by gradually dismantling the authoritarian structure of Chun's regime, notably by implementing democratic reforms within his own party. His recent appointment of a prominent dissident as his prime minister won widespread approval.

Assiduously distancing himself from his military past, Roh likes to be known as an ordinary man who listens to the will of the people. In contrast with the austere image of his predecessor, he beams with bonhomie.

Married with one son and one daughter, he enjoys classical music, especially Beethoven's 9th Symphony, and is said to be good at playing a traditional bamboo flute.

In keeping with his new avuncular image, he interrupted a busy schedule over Christmas to share his vision of a bright future with children in a Seoul orphanage. "In the 21st century, which is only a few years away," he told them, "you will be the king of this country, and this country will be the king of the world."

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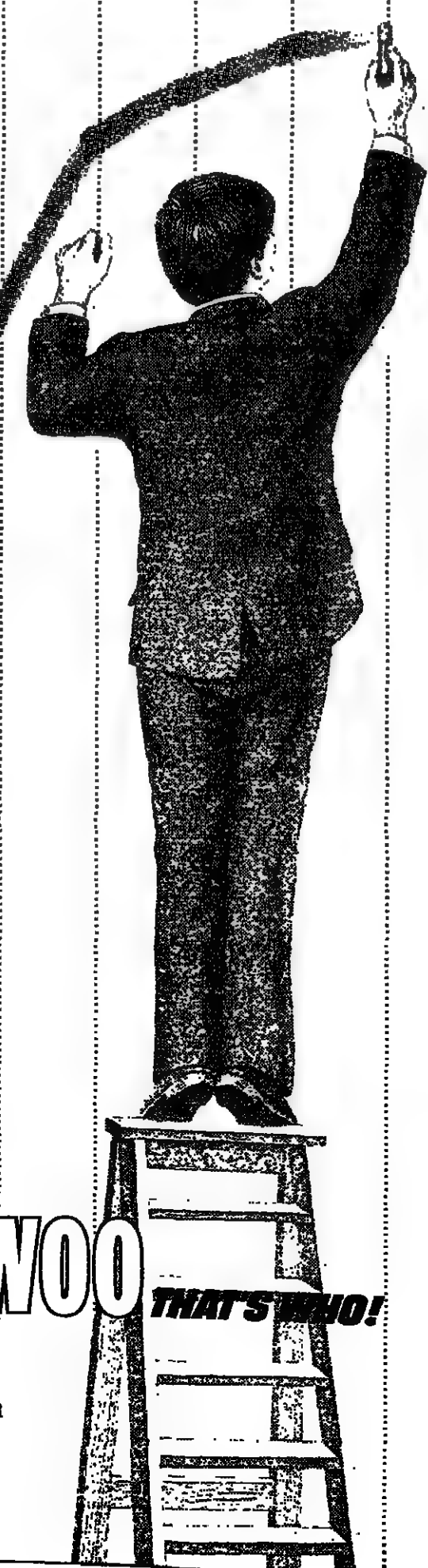
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Logo of the 1988 Seoul Olympics

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FOCUS

SOUTH KOREA/3

A change on the 38th parallel?



GAMES OF THE XXIV OLYMPIAD SEOUL 1988

South Korea is gambling on the Games improving political and trade relations across the world

Dramatic changes in foreign policy may not be the order of the day but the new President, Roh Tae Woo, is certain to make subtle adjustments to his predecessor's approach writes Brian Bridges.

For South Koreans, a growing self-confidence does not always sit well with underlying feelings of military and economic insecurity. No South Korean government can ignore the ominous and often erratic presence north of the 38th parallel or the complex relationships with, and between, the four major powers (China, the Soviet Union, Japan and the United States) most directly interested in the peninsula.

Yet, using the Olympics as a kingpin, Roh is intent on capitalizing on his country's growing stature and independence.

The electronic scoreboard to be used in the main gymnastics hall at the September Seoul Olympics is not Korean, Japanese or even West European. It was made in Hungary, a country that does not have diplomatic relations with South Korea.

This choice was a reflection of South Korea's desire not simply to secure Hungarian, and other East European participation in the Olympics but also to use the occasion as a lever towards improved economic and political contacts.



South Korea is certain to push this pragmatic approach towards improving relations with communist countries much further. His predecessor, General Chun Doo Hwan, was handicapped both by the strong aura of anti-communism that he evoked and the sense of illegitimacy that surrounded his seizure of power.

Elected by a more democratic process, Roh is likely to be strong in cracking down on internal communist activity but more flexible in the foreign policy dimension: socialist countries in turn will feel less inhibited in dealing with his government.

South Korea has already secured the Olympic participation, despite the North Korean boycott, of all the key East European and Asian socialist states. Roh is determined to translate this into something more than just increased commercial contact.

Before the summer is out KOTRA, the semi-governmental Korean trade organization, will have established offices in at least four East European countries. Hungary and Yugoslavia will reciprocate with trade offices in Seoul before the Olympics and China has hinted at similar action afterwards.

China, not least because of its close connections with North Korea, is the prize Roh is angling for.

During the presidential election campaign he declared that he would like to normalize relations with China and he then tried, in vain, through Japanese intermediaries, to secure an invitation to visit China before his inauguration.

His election campaign pledge to develop the ports and related infrastructure of western and south-western South Korea, while clearly important as a means of placating the neglected people of Cholla province, was primarily made with a view to facilitating direct trade with

China's north-eastern ports. But Roh may be trying to move too fast. At least until after the Olympics, China will confine itself to looking for economic benefits from South Korean trade but without upsetting North Korea by further political accommodation with the South.

The South's own accommodation with the North — or

The North takes top priority

lack of it — is the president's most pressing task. North Korea's stated boycott of the Olympics has had minimal impact on socialist bloc enthusiasm for participation.

But especially in the light of North Korean complicity in the destruction of the KAL airliner over Burma last

November, it does pose major security concerns.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has deliberately left the door open for later North Korean participation and further negotiations between the two Koreas, and the IOC is likely to continue fitfully.

Having left to the outgoing government the diplomatic efforts to organize international sanctions against North Korea after the mid-January confession of Kim Hyon Hui who planted the bomb on the KAL airliner, Roh himself may now be prepared to adopt a softer line. He and his advisers are well aware of the dangers of an isolated and disgruntled northern neighbour.

The South Koreans have looked to their principal friends, the US and Japan, to support sanctions against North Korea. The response has been limited, but sufficient to put a brake on cautious moves, admittedly more evident from Japan than

A strained dialogue on the 38th parallel: American and North Korean troops face each other at Panmunjom

from the US, towards more contact with North Korea.

While Roh, like his predecessor, hopes for "cross recognition" (China and the Soviet Union to recognize the South in return for Japan and the US recognizing the North), North Korea's intransigence and South Korea's precondition of reciprocity will prevent any real movement in this line.

The US has made it clear that there is to be no lessening of the security commitment to South Korea; it still supplies advanced weaponry and conducts massive "Team Spirit" joint exercises each spring.

The 40,000 US troops play a vital "trip wire" role in maintaining peace on the peninsula, but both Roh and the Americans expect that there will come a time when the US troops will no longer be needed to augment the South Korean forces. However, in the short term,

Jay Hee Oh, South Korea's ambassador, to London, stresses the importance his country attaches to its relationship with Britain

6 When the newly born Republic of Korea was attacked by North Korean communists in 1950, Britain was one of the first nations to send its soldiers to our aid. Koreans will not forget this sacrifice made by British soldiers in repelling the aggressors.

The importance South Korea places on its relationship with Britain is a link which was further compounded in 1983 when both countries celebrated a centenary of diplomatic relations.

The visit to Britain in 1986 by ex-President Chun Doo Hwan and the return visit by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher have helped to maintain this momentum.

The relations between our two countries has broadened. The Asian Pacific region is the fastest developing area in the world today, and the

economic co-operation between South Korea and Britain is developing rapidly. Last year there was a two-way trade volume over £1.3 billion and UK exports to Korea rose 48 per cent while Korean exports are up 41 per cent.

Despite EEC pressure on Korea for further import liberalization, Korea is continuing to open its markets commensurate with its economic development. The import liberalization ratio will reach 95.4 per cent in April when the further liberalization of 145 items comes into effect.

The opportunities for widening economic relations, investment and co-operation in technology between Korea and Britain are yet to be fully exploited.

Britain is not a remote country in the minds of Koreans and British arts and literature are becoming increasingly popular. The numbers of Korean students coming to the UK is rising, and we receive more visitors from Britain than any other European country. The numbers will grow enormously when a direct air link is finally established in the near future.

As Korea enters a new chapter in its constitutional history we hope that we will learn more from the British experience of democratic evolution.

South Korean people.

South Korea's relations with Japan will be freer of major conflict, although difficulties will persist over longstanding issues such as trade imbalances and the treatment of Korean residents in Japan.

In the last couple of years of his administration, Chun made much of a "look to Europe" campaign, primarily to offset South Korean dependence on imports from Japan and exports to the US. Roh may not use the same rhetoric, but the commercial imperatives still apply.

It remains to be seen how Europeans, who are often too quick to brand South Korea as simply a "second Japan", respond to the challenges and opportunities.

Brian Bridges is head of The East Asia Programme at The Royal Institute of International Affairs



Seoul 1988 Olympic Games.

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SOUTH KOREA/4

FOCUS

Taking off to the island of the gods



GROUP OF THE NORTH OLYMPIC 1988

Looking from the chiselled hills around Seoul it is hard for tourists to believe that at the end of the peninsula lies an island with the ambience of Devon or Cornwall writes David Wallis.

Visitors rarely get beyond the rugged, modernistic muscularity of Seoul but in the countryside, and particularly in the south, there is a slower pace diametrically different to that of the capital in the year of the Olympics.

An ideal South Korean itinerary would accommodate a few days in Seoul with perhaps a side-trip to the coast, or to what President Reagan likes to call "The Frontier of Freedom" at Panmunjom where the North Korean guards' expressions are colder than the Siberian winds.

If Seoul at first seems forbidding, the sheer spirit and personal warmth of the South Koreans soon shines through the city's hard exterior.

On the way south from Seoul's modern face it is as well to spend some time in appreciation of the depth and longevity of Korean culture in old Kyongju. This is an extraordinary city of earthen tumuli which was once the country's cultural and political heart under the Shaman kings.

Today it remains unaffected, even in times of political turmoil, and seems content to get on with its principal pursuit of rice cultivation and tourism, the latter being the principal focus of attention in this most relaxed of Korean cities.

Kyongju is littered with historic sites from the Shaman era and includes probably the finest example of a Korean Buddhist temple, Pulguksa, as well as a fine museum and emporia specializing in Korean folk arts.

Not far from Kyongju is the Bomun lake resort, offering numerous de luxe hotels and recreation facilities with a golf course and marina. Close, too, and excellent for climbing and sight-seeing, is Mount Namsan with striking Buddha images etched into its granite faces. And if the men want to get a taste of the real Korean business and administration they should visit a *kisaeng* house at Kum Ho Kak.

Moving on south by plane the countryside of Korea at its best is



The beauty of Korea: behind the frenetic pre-Olympics scene is a Korean gentleness; traditional dancing—here by the National Dance Company—and music

epitomized in the tiny island of Cheju off the southern coast. The most immediate similarity between Cheju and the south-west of England are the low walls of lava rock that separate dozens of tiny fields bright with yellow rape flowers.

Low houses which seem to rise no higher than these intersecting walls are roofed with tiles of blue, orange, green and grey. The narrow roads are peopled with the young couples who flock to Cheju for honeymoons or holidays.

Japanese tourists, too, have started to arrive on direct flights, but so far they are not in sufficient

numbers to change the character of the island or its attractions.

These may not be as dramatic as some of the sights to be seen in the more northerly mountainous areas but there is a natural Korean hospitality to be sampled along with some of the best beaches in the country and hotels as well appointed as any in Seoul.

The main town shares the island's name of Cheju, literally "Over there", and looks much like a provincial town in the rest of the country. With a total population of 200,000, the whole island has an unhurried, uncrowded air.

Not far from the main hotel,

owned and run by Korean Air, legend has it that three male demigods, Yang, Ko and Pu, emerged from three holes in the ground to become the island's first inhabitants. It is that sort of place and not without reason has it been called the "Island of the Gods".

From the main town, you can take the route around the island which includes the leading attractions — the Hallim weavers' village, the Chungmun beach and Chongbang Falls outside the resort area of Sogwipo which has a superb hotel overlooking the sea. Alternatively, you can cut across inland along either of two roads that take you past the base of Mount Halla which forms the central area of the island.

Riding, sports fishing, hiking and volcanic peaks and craters make up a fascinating mix with the delicious local traditional Korean dishes and seafoods. There is even a delightful professor at the local university to tell you at great length about the first British contacts with Cheju — happily positive for the most part.



All smiles: Schoolchildren on a camping trip enjoy lunch

Three good meals a day on rice, soup and kimchi

Ask any Korean what he eats, and the answer comes back: "Rice soup, and kimchi," and that means for breakfast, lunch, and dinner since all three meals are essentially the same. The kimchi must take priority since most Koreans maintain they cannot survive without it.

Kimchi is a fermented vegetable dish, made from cucumber, cabbage, radish or fruit. In fact, there are so many variations on each kind that a museum has been set up in Seoul to exhibit and explain them.

The most important kimchi is "kimjang" made at the beginning

of winter to last until spring. Most kimchi is spice-hot, but there is the milder "white kimchi", made from the long-leafed cabbage, often called Chinese cabbage in the West, a term resented by the Korean who looks on it as Korean cabbage.

Among the other essentials in kimjang are ginger root, garlic, grated radish, and red pepper. Each housewife adds her own extras, filling several big brown ceramic jars in the autumn. She

may add slightly cooked fish, a little salted shrimp, aged oysters, mandarin orange wedges, pine nuts, chestnuts or pears. A Korean might forego his soup but never his kimchi and rice.

Korean rice is cooked to a dry consistency and may be combined with beans, peas, pine nuts or other grains including barley and millet. Glutinous rice is also popular but used mostly for special treats such as sweets served on special occasions.

Soups range from a simple bean sprout or seaweed soup — a kelp-type sea weed with bits of meat added — to luxury soups such as "sinsullo", a dish heated at the table in a special brass pot with a tube up the centre.

"Mandu guk" (guk is Korean for soup), is decorated with thin strips of meat, fried egg, and green pepper and featuring "mandu" which are sometimes like Italian ravioli but usually in a half-moon shape. These are filled with a

mixture of spices, finely chopped meat, bean curd, onions, and perhaps garlic.

Do not be misled into thinking the Korean housewife has done her job when she presents a bowl of rice, a bowl of soup, and a dish or two of "kimchi" on the low mother-of-pearl inlaid table where the lord and master sits. She has to worry about the side dishes. At the very least there must be toasted seaweed, bits of meat marinated in soy sauce, hot sauce, meat in a

fermented soy bean paste, grilled fish — body intact including the eyes — lettuce for wrapping around rice jazzed-up with hot sauce and raw green chilli peppers.

A table could have as many as 50 side dishes; you simply reach with your wooden or stainless steel chopsticks.

There are few regional dishes, although one example is "naengmyun" — cold noodles. They are a speciality of the north

and are served winter and summer alike, and although their temperature is cold, the spiciness can be very hot. These are buckwheat and potato flour noodles with slices of beef, pear, and a hard-boiled egg served in a beef-based liquid with a hot mustard or pepper sauce.

There are some excellent restaurants in Seoul such as the Daewongak which serves other Korean favourites: "bulgogi", strips of marinated beef cooked at the table, and "kalbi", similar to barbecued ribs.

Gertrude Ferrar

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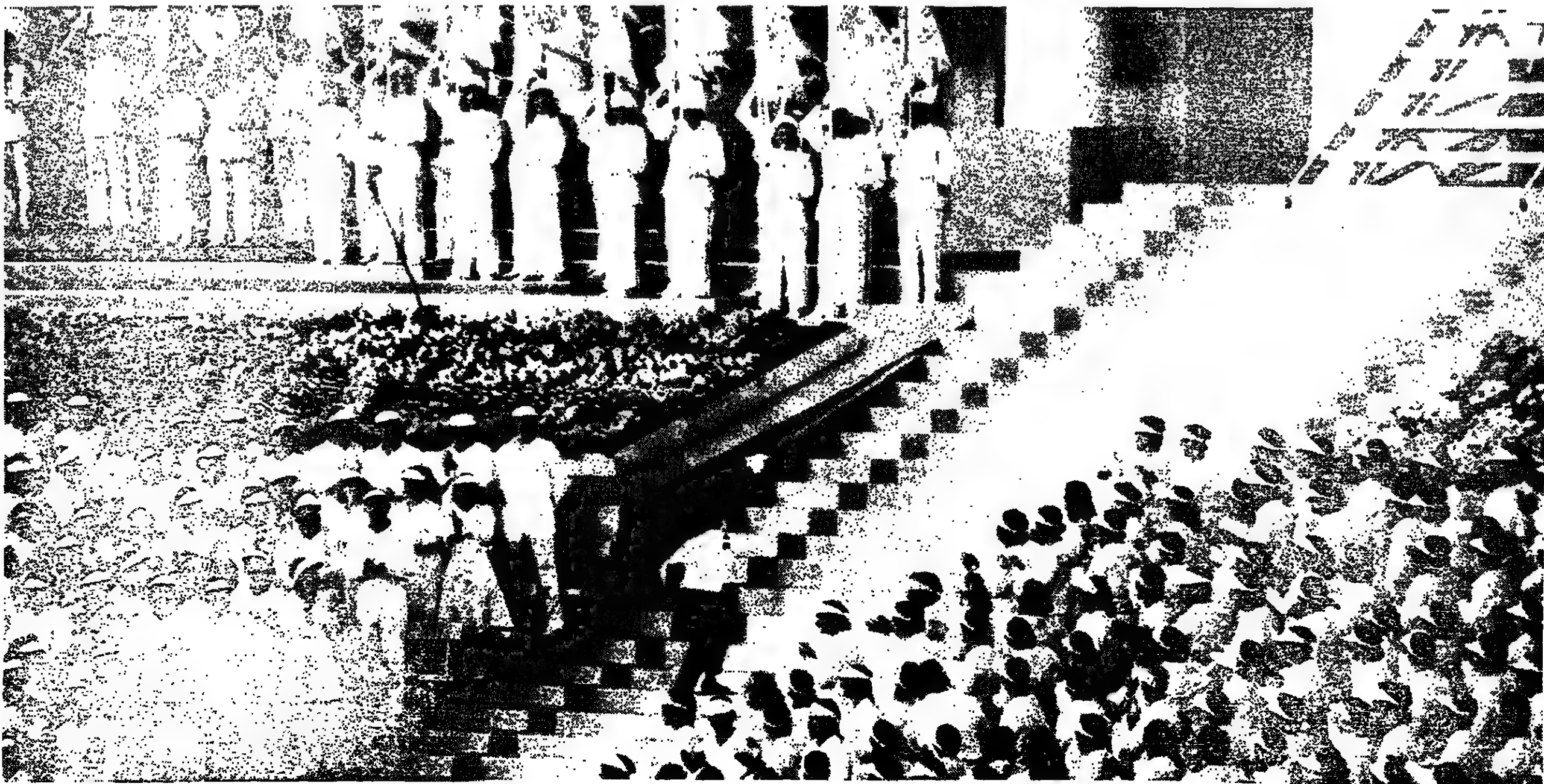
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FOCUS SOUTH KOREA/5

Buy, buy, buy in the friendly city

Seoul combines a curious blend of the venerable and the ultra-modern



GAMES OF THE XXIV OLYMPIAD SEOUL 1988

It is unlikely that the rulers of the Paekche Kingdom who erected a fortified capital in the Han River basin 2,000 years ago would recognize much of their stronghold today, other than the craggy mountains which surround it, writes Gavin Bell.

Even American troops who fought in the 1950-53 Korean War would find few familiar landmarks in the modern city of Seoul. In these days there was only one bridge across the river dividing the South Korean capital, and it was destroyed in the fighting. At the last count there were 19, carrying a ceaseless flow of traffic growing at the rate of 300 vehicles every day.

The metropolis of 10 million people which has emerged from centuries of dynastic rule, periodic destruction by foreign invaders, and a more recent economic boom, is a curious blend of the venerable and the ultra-modern.

Magnificent fortified gates, palaces and shrines dating from the early days of the Choson Dynasty (1394-1910) are overshadowed by towering office blocks, and besieged by eight-lane highways. It is like finding parts of Hampton Court Palace in Manhattan.

Images of riot police clashing with students in the recent struggle for democracy are misleading. Seoul is a generally safe and friendly city with a remarkable diversity of social and cultural activity.

Above all, it is a shopper's paradise. Most foreign visitors are drawn to Itaewon, known as "The Strip", a mile-long street near the main US army base lined with countless stores and arcades selling

everything from traditional handicrafts to computers. Its main attraction is clothing, made to order at a small fraction of prices in the West.

Racks of leather jackets, silk gowns and fur coats spill on to pavements already crowded with makeshift stalls selling gloves, knitwear and T-shirts bearing the tiger cub emblem of the Seoul Olympics.

Despite half-hearted attempts by the authorities to

crack down on the fraudulent practice, imitations of famous brand-names abound. One is assured that the mechanics of wristwatches on offer are more reliable than their trademarks.

Not all the labels are false since many goods are produced locally under licence from well-known foreign companies. Running shoes like those from the HS Corporation are a notable example,

offering enthusiastic joggers more miles for their money.

The largest and most colourful marketplace is Tongdaemun (East Gate), an Aladdin's Cave of 3,000 stores sprawling over 10 city blocks, which boasts the finest collection of silk in the country. A similar market at Namdammun (South Gate) and the Lotte department store, a sort of cut-price Harrods, also do a roaring trade.

The smart boutiques are in a maze of narrow streets and lanes around Myeongdong Cathedral, regarded collectively as the Regent Street of Seoul. Antique chests, paintings and ceramics are rare, but available at a price in nearby Insadong, better known to foreigners for unknown reasons, as "Mary's Alley".

All this is on the surface. If one were to fall down a flight of steps almost anywhere in

the city centre, there is a reasonable chance one would land in a tailor's shop or a souvenir store. The downtown area is honeycombed with underground arcades which any Victorian engineer would be proud of.

Korean shopkeepers are generally polite and the word "discount" is universally understood; it automatically knocks 5 to 10 per cent off prices in the markets, paying the way for more serious bargaining.

After dark, Itaewon draws the foreigners with a neon-lit strip of nightclubs, restaurants and bars. Traditional Korean eating-houses tend to be fairly basic, and American fast-food joints have gained a foothold, but there are a growing number of more comfortable establishments modelling themselves incongruously on old-fashioned English and French dining-rooms.

A wander into the "Oxbridge", or the nearby "Laserre", for example, takes one into a world of book-lined studies, log fires and dark wood panelling with accomplished musicians playing piano, violin and folk guitars.

The local cognoscenti tend to head south of the river to areas such as Pangbae-dong, little known by foreigners, which boasts an array of good and relatively cheap restaurants and nightclubs.

South Korea is only beginning to count the cost of its economic boom in terms of rising crime, pollution and traffic congestion; inevitably Seoul is suffering most.

Robberies have become commonplace, acid rain levels last year were five times the acceptable limit, and planners admit there is little they can do to stem the rising tide of traffic choking the streets. The rush-hour din contrasts unhappily with South Korea's national motto: The Land of the Morning Calm.

Seoul has come a long way since King Taejo, the founder of the Choson Dynasty, proclaimed it the capital of all Korea in 1394, but its future may be as fraught with difficulties as its turbulent past.



The Aladdin's Cave: the bustling markets provide everything from food and phoney watches to silk shirts and computers

Seoul is hardly the most accessible destination. At present there are no direct flights from Britain so passengers must change at least once en route.

The fastest way from London is via Japan on one of the non-stop flights over the trans-Siberia route, reaching Tokyo in under 12 hours. This route is served by British Caledonian/British Airways and Japan Airlines (JAL).

After a couple of hours on the ground at Tokyo's Narita airport, the final leg to Seoul (by JAL or Korean Airlines, KAL) takes two hours.

Direct flights between Europe and Seoul operate from several Continental airports. From Amsterdam, there are direct flights with KLM, from

THE COST OF GETTING TO THE GAMES

Paris with Air France/KAL, from Frankfurt with Lufthansa/KAL and from Zurich with Swissair/KAL.

Because these flights cannot overfly Russia they must take the longer Polar route through Anchorage, Alaska, and this adds six hours to the through journey time from the UK.

Alternatively, consider a round-the-world (RTW) ticket. It's actually cheaper to take a lengthier routing.

Between London and Seoul, the normal return First and Business class fares are £4,140 and £2,472 respectively, with the Economy class PEX (Instant Purchase) excursion costing £981.

Normal First/Business class fares entitle you to travel flexibility and a variety of routings. PEX fares can be bought at any time but require a minimum stay of 14 days in Seoul stopovers are allowed.

But remember that creative fares abound when flying to Asia. So if you're prepared to shop around and to travel with specific airlines over specific routings you can make healthy savings on the normal fares. Here are sample discounted fares currently on sale through London travel agents:

● China Airlines (via Amsterdam and Taipei): First £3,070, Business £2,100.
● KAL via the Continent: First £3,000, Business £1,930.

● Economy class deals include KLM, £745, BCAL £730, Cathay Pacific (via Hong Kong) £860-£1,010.

● Circle Asia fares, marketed by Far East Travel Centre, allow you to visit Seoul along with Bangkok, Hong Kong and Tokyo for around £1,085.

● RTW fares. Typically you pay £2,499 First, £1,699 Business, £1,150 Economy class. You choose from a combination of destinations. For example, a Cathay Pacific/Northern combination ticket lets you fly London/Bahrain/Hong Kong/Seoul/Tokyo/Honolulu/Los Angeles/Boston/London.

But book soon. On some routes Economy class seats are already in short supply.

Alex McWhirter

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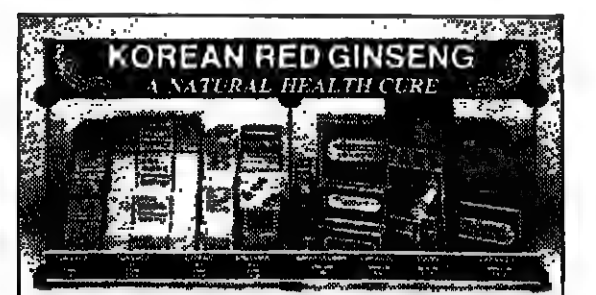
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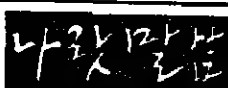


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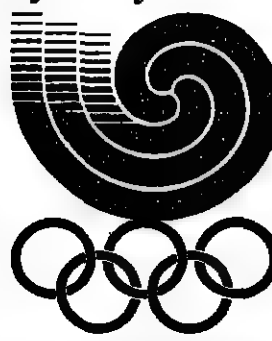
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SOUTH KOREA/6 (FOCUS)

Taking the lead in the 21st century

Sheer hard work has powered an economic miracle, says Tony Michell



GAMES OF THE XXIV OLYMPIC SEUL 1988

The International Labour Organization is categoric when it says that South Koreans are the hardest working people in the world. In a single generation, the Republic of Korea has developed from a country with the per capita income of India in 1961 to that of Portugal in 1987 at \$2,817 per person.

Last year Korea led the world in economic growth with a revaluation of the Won and a 12.6 per cent rise in GNP against a population growth of 1.5 per cent.

The government forecast for 1988 is 0.5 per cent but this is traditionally conservative and the independent forecasters, Political and Economic Risk of Hong Kong, are predicting 10.4 per cent, even with a possible interruption to trade by the United States.

The burst of labour unrest which shook Korea last summer has left almost no visible macro-economic trace in the year's economic performance.

What appears to have happened was that seven years of labour grievances were quickly settled in a matter of two short months. Some observers are concerned there could be a resurgence of disputes during the coming spring wage bargaining season, but current indications in Seoul suggest that radical workers have lost so much ground since the election, there will be minimal disturbance.

The incoming President, Roh Tae Woo, takes over one of the healthiest economies in the world. Under any probable scenario of growth rates, Korea, in current price GNP, will overtake middle-income Europe, the UK and Italy somewhere around 2000, and France shortly after 2000.

While Korean development

is commonly thought of as an export-led economy, the domestic economic growth is a strong and stable component. In 1986 and 1987 domestic growth accounted for about 56 per cent of GNP growth, and exports which grew by 36.5 per cent in 1987 for 44 per cent.

To understand the strength of Korea in 1988, as it enters the Sixth Republic, it is necessary to recall the situation in 1980-81.

Korea seemed to have run out of steam. It was overshadowed by the depression after the second oil crisis of 1979 and was suffering from the effects of an overvalued Won, high inflation, a tough monetarist policy and an over-restricted economy.

It looked as though Korea might be entering a Latin American phase in which fast growth ceased.

The current account deficit was running at \$5 billion a year which had to be funded by borrowing abroad. As late as the end of 1985 Korea was still near to the top of the international banking communities worry list, just behind Brazil, Peru, Mexico and Argentina.

The tide started to turn when the economic policy group, which became influential in 1980, set a bold economic strategy which called for liberalization as fast as they could persuade their colleagues to accept it.

Strongly criticized by the business community for two or three years, the policy of this group, most of whom

perished in the Rangoon bombing in 1983, brought prices under control.

They built a firm basis for what the Korean politicians call "the second take-off" and introduced a new generation of industries — primarily electronics and electronics parts — and an upgrading of the textile sector, shipbuilding and iron and steel.

The result has been dubbed an "economic miracle" with the reversal of the current account deficit to a healthy surplus of \$9.4 billion in 1987.

How far will economic policy change under the new President? So far the indications are that Roh will be a President with a strong dose of common sense and a keen ear to pick up and implement constructive criticism, and is

likely to take strong initiatives in his early days.

As far as the economic line-up in the new Cabinet, announced on February 19, is concerned, Rha Woong-Bae, the present Minister of Trade and Industry will become Deputy Prime Minister.

Rha is a highly-talented economist who left an academic career for government and business. He was briefly Finance Minister, and was a president of the Haitai Group and Hankook Tires, making him the first Deputy Prime Minister since 1968 to have worked for private business.

Even more remarkable is the new Minister of Trade and Industry, Mr Ahn Byung-Wha, who has an unbroken line of company presidencies.

It means that for the first time Korea has an economic Cabinet which understands industry from the inside. Some rather original and practical policy mixes could result from this experienced team.

The future depends on the ability of Korean companies to adapt to change. Being a businessman in Korea is a unique experience. Growth is now four times faster than in most advanced countries and the average businessman faces four times the investment decisions and four times the yearly change in the market compared with his western counterpart.

Foreign multinationals entering the Korean market are often outpaced by the speed with which Korean competitors react. As a general rule

plant is 60 per cent cheaper to build in Korea (if the Korean company plans and builds it) and is put up in about 40 per cent of the time it takes to construct in the West.

The major Korean chaebol: Hyundai, Samsung, Lucky-Goldstar, Daewoo, Ssangyong, Sunkyong and Korea Explosives Group are already big enough to figure high in the Fortune 500. The three largest rank with the top 50 US corporations.

With increasing protection abroad and relaxation of foreign currency constraints these companies are set to expand into true multinationals at speed. They are likely to go shopping for small hi-tech western companies with cash flow problems. This is especially true as pressure on intellectual property rights grows from the US and EEC.

Korean industry is currently riding on a boom in auto and auto parts. How long this can last is unclear, but the investment going into computer-operated lathes and high-quality precision engineering equipment would be equally at home making machinery parts for anything else. Korean companies are already moving into aeroplanes and other sections of the aerospace technology.

While concern grows about US trade restraints, China and the East block trade is the one remaining external economic card still to be played.

President Roh Tae Woo takes office at a time when the economy is bursting with potential to expand and modernize in many directions. Only a total trade war with the United States, Korea's major market, or total disruption by North Korea could now blow Korea off its chosen course — to be one of the top 10 economic powers of the twenty-first century.

By Laxmi Nakarmi

South Korea's giant shipyards are buzzing with new orders. After five years of recession shipbuilders are pooling their strengths to enhance competitiveness, take advantage of growing international demand and end the unrivalled Japanese domination in the world market.

The Koreans expect to take 25 per cent of the world market of 15 million gross tons this year, whereas Japan is not expected to win more than 30 per cent.

Although Korea is emerging

Industry pushes the boat out

as a strong shipbuilding nation, it still depends considerably on foreign technology, parts and components and productivity is low compared to that of Japan and Scandinavian countries.

None the less, Korean shipbuilders believe that the strong yen and the recovery in the world market should bring more international customers to their doors.

Orders nearly tripled in the past two years with the 1987

new order book showing 3.44 million gross tons, up 30 per cent from last year.

The surge in the market comes at a time when Korean shipbuilders are about to go bankrupt with losses over \$200 million and labour disputes last year ending with a 20 per cent rise in wages.

Led by Hyundai Heavy Industries, Korean shipbuilders burst into the international market in the mid-1970s

successfully attracting foreign customers to the world's largest shipyard of 2.2 million gross tons.

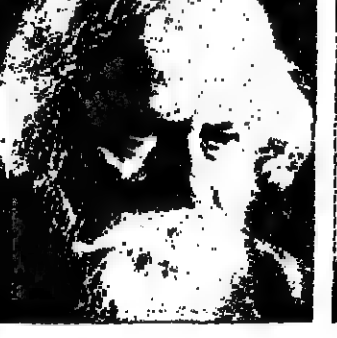
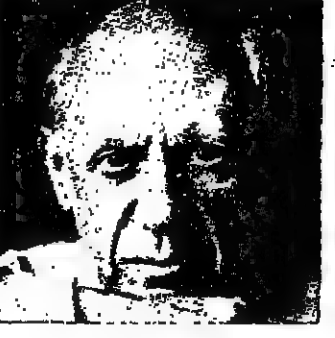
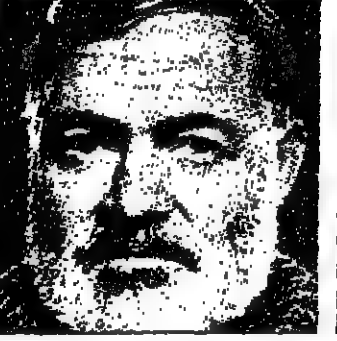
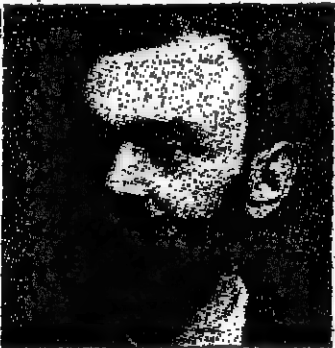
Daewoo joined in 1979 with the world's single largest drydock capable of building a ship of one million tons. Samsung and other smaller builders joined in the early 1980s giving Korea an annual building capacity of six million tons.

With the new administration's commitment to end

government support to big business, the shipbuilders will have to become self-reliant.

As a first step, all major Korean shipbuilders signed a gentlemen's agreement that none of them would undercut the others to win orders.

The unit price of all kinds of ships has gone up as much as 40 per cent in the past two years. "We cannot afford to undercut any more as we don't have any more corners to cut and the advantage of cheaper currency is gone," said Yoon Young-Suk, former president of Daewoo.



At first all these people were unknowns. Just as no one knew who they were or what they did, Kia was also unknown back in 1944 when it set Korea's private transportation industry rolling.

But these people all made their way, achieving fame in the political world, medicine, the natural sciences, and the arts. Kia, too, has made its way through 44 years of nonstop work and study to become a major producer of trucks, buses, vans,

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Cars: the three years that shook America



CHIEF OF THE NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION

Two weeks ago, the Koreans received a verdict from the US Trade Representative which found Hyundai Motors guilty of dumping cars in that country.

The Canadians struck right at the root of the Korean strategy of selling cars in North America — namely prices that cannot be beaten by either Japanese or US manufacturers.

Analysts in Seoul began to assess potential damages to Hyundai in case Chrysler Corp., which has no interest whatsoever in Korea, decides to check whether the Korean company is dumping in the US too.

Hyundai is the industry leader, responsible for two-thirds of Korea's total exports in 1987. Chung Se-Young,

Chairman of the Hyundai Group, is talking of exporting up to 450,000 units this year. This is a substantial number for a company whose first major shipment was only in 1984.

The company's present facilities can produce 700,000 vehicles a year, and designs for more assembly lines are underway.

Hyundai's domestic rivals are not far behind. Daewoo Motors, a joint venture with General Motors, produced 140,000 units of Lemans (a version of GM's Opel Kadett) in 1987. Of this, 80,000 units are being exported to the US.

Kia Motors, in which the US Ford and Mazda of Japan have equity interest, produced 140,000 units of its Festiva cars, of which 75,000 units were sold in the US under Ford's name in 1987.

These three car makers have emerged as leading exporters of small subcompact cars in the US, the result of government planning to develop passenger cars as a strategic industry.

In 1983, the passenger car industry accounted for less than 4 per cent of the value of South Korea's industrial production. By 1990, Oh In-Sik of KIEI, a government think-tank, predicts the values will rise to 9 per cent.

Korea's motor companies

have laid out \$3.1 billion since 1986 in facilities investment. According to a projection of Daeshin Research Institute, the three companies will invest an additional \$4.3 billion to expand production to two million units by 1990.

Cars, whose export value amounted to \$2514 million or 5.4 per cent of the country's total exports of \$47 billion in 1987, were major contributors in turning Korea's current

Investment is still pouring into plant

accounts from chronic deficit into surplus during the past two years.

Although the companies will be exporting nearly 75 per cent of their combined production this year, Kim Woo-Choon, chairman of Daewoo Motors, believes that domestic demand, already rising at a rapid pace, will match export volume in 1991 when average Koreans can afford to drive their first car.

Car ownership, which now stands at about 16 units per 1,000 people, is expected to double by 1990.

However, the sudden surge in exports to the US has produced a rise in Korean imports from Japan. Domestic vendors of autoparts are typically small and under-

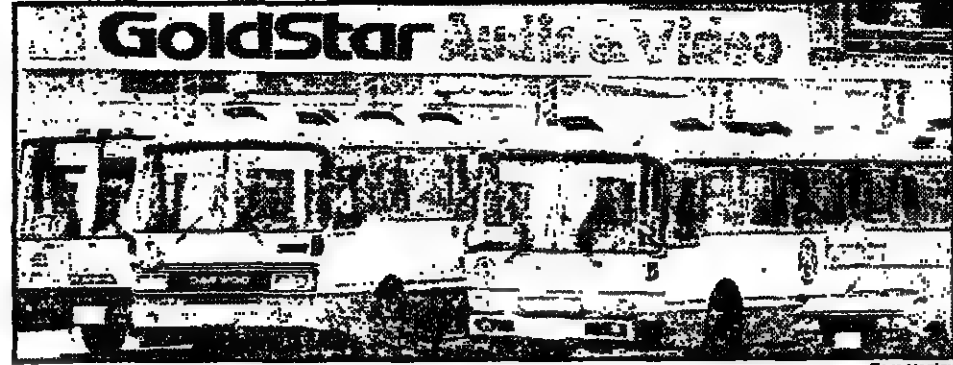
financed, forcing manufacturers to rely on Japanese parts to comply with US safety and emission control standards.

The Daewoo Research Institute calculates that the value of Korea's car parts imports from Japan more than tripled to \$400 million between 1984 to 1986. Overall imports of car parts jumped from \$172 million to \$600 million in 1986. Estimates for 1987 are in the \$800 million range.

Korea is now actively diversifying parts imports away from Japan and promoting local production by tie-ups with foreign firms.

However Mitsubishi Motor Corp and Mitsubishi already have a combined 15 per cent equity interest in Hyundai, whose unprecedented debut in the American market in 1986 and the grand success of the past two years was the result of not only a timely appearance of reasonably-priced small cars, but the company's sound marketing strategy in the careful screening and selection of successful car dealers in the US.

It selected only dealers with sufficient financial resources to invest in building showrooms set up exclusively to display the Excel Models. Hyundai's insistence upon exclusive showrooms has been



Boom time: hard at work on the all-Korean assembly line at Hyundai's Ulsan plant above, and left, Goldstar paints a clear picture

concentrated on vans and minibuses with technical assistance from Mazda.

Kia re-entered the car market in 1986 and immediately built a plant to produce the Festiva, jointly with Mazda, who designed the car, and Ford, who agreed to import it. Kia, unlike its two domestic rivals, is not a subsidiary of the top 10 conglomerates. Korean efficiency and increased automation including computer integrated manufacturing systems are guaranteed to steer these companies into the forefront of motor technology.

By Laxmi Nakarmi

Strikes are out and the new work ethic works wonders

Sam-Sun Choi played an active role in Jindo's labour activities last summer. After six years with the company, this 25-year old and her 1,800 co-workers went on strike to press for increased wages and improved working conditions writes Laxmi Nakarmi.

Jindo, which manufactures and sells fur garments worldwide, acted quickly and accepted the demands.

The strikes lasted a mere 22 hours. The management simply agreed to hike wages and improve working conditions, and the workers promised to improve productivity. Instead of a union, they set up a labour-management consultative committee to "open a channel of communication".

Last year Jindo was one of at least 3,000 companies to experience wildcat labour strikes. Auto-makers to basement sweatshops shut down when workers demanded the right to exercise labour rights. Thousands of new unions were set up within days

and Korea's labour picture changed dramatically.

Suddenly, company managers saw another side to their quiet employees, normally praised for their ethics — loyalty, discipline, perseverance and willingness to learn new skills. Although the workforce has been instrumental in building the country's industrial strength, many question whether Korea will have labour peace in the future.

Last summer's strikes brought the dark side of the work ethic to light and companies understood that loyalty and hard work do not come cheap.

The Federation of Korean Trade Unions, which had been campaigning for years for laws guaranteeing minimum wages and labour rights, finally found a government willing to act, and laws relevant to both issues were passed by the National Assembly last December. The minimum wage is now set at \$35 for a 40 hour

week, benefitting over 10,000 workers.

"The strikes in a way were good," says Young D Kim, president of Jindo Corp "they made us realize the need for dialogue." In Korea's authoritarian system and Confucian culture, dialogue has not been prominent.

"Orders from the top worked well until the companies were protected by stringent laws that banned all kinds of labour activities," says Jeong-Sun Lee, an analyst with Daewoo Research Institute.

The generation gap is also acute. Young workers, unlike their superiors, are restless with outdated labour management practices of most companies. They want management response to their needs.

"Their tastes and habits, needs and priorities are different," says Woo-Choon Kim, chairman of the Daewoo Group, who spent 10 days last autumn in a dormitory of Daewoo Motors listening to what

the workers had to say about the management.

"We have ideas and we know about our work. We don't want to be dictated to. We get pride in improving our work," says a young engineer with Hyundai Heavy Industries. "But the sloof management continues to give orders without listening to us," he added.

"Ideas are extremely important and suggestions can help save company costs enormously," says Jindo president Young D Kim for whom cost-saving ideas are crucial in selling fur garments worldwide at bargain prices.

The labour-management consultative committee is nothing new in Korea. Lee Byung-Chul, the late founder of the Samsung Group, refused to let workers set up a union. Instead he established a consultative committee in each member company and promised to give the best of everything.

The Korean workforce is caught between loyalty to management and

loyalty to peers. The labour movement is seeking outlets to express workers' grievances, some to the point of organizing a political party. But the top priority is still to work hard.

Many workers last summer hurried back to factory floors and put in extra shifts to recover lost production. They firmly believe their company depends on them for quality and profitability.

Korea's giant conglomerates are finally taking labour management seriously. It is a subject so uniquely new to Korea that none of the country's top universities offer a course on it. But, several companies now send their executives to the US, Japan and Europe to study labour management.

Changes are due, and under President Roh Tae Woo the new government is setting up an institute to train both labour and management in the hope that companies will start giving as much attention to labour relations as their exports.

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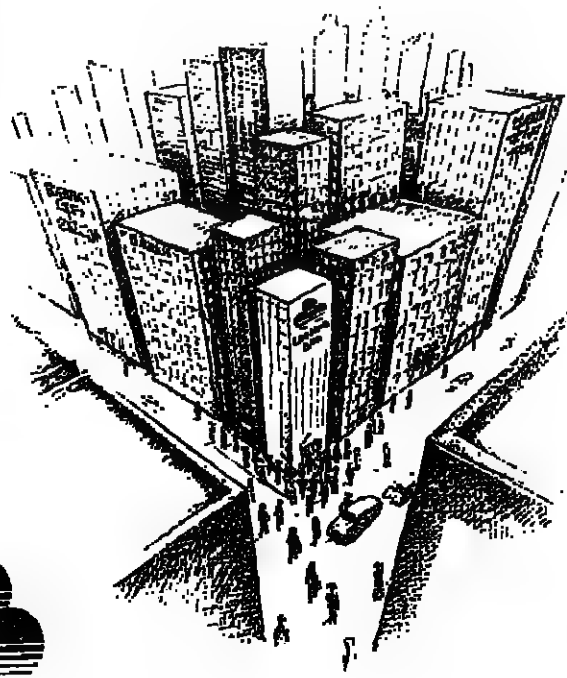
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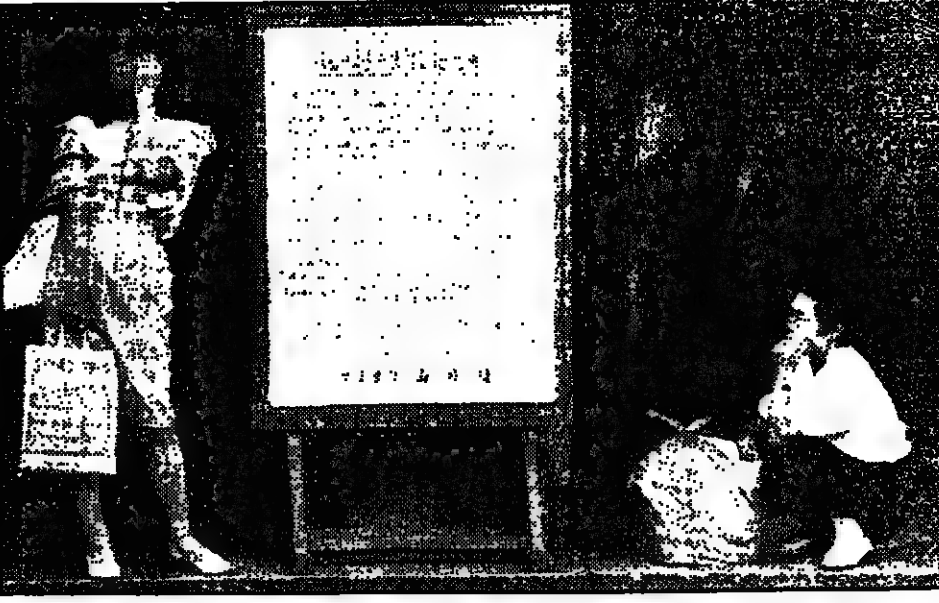
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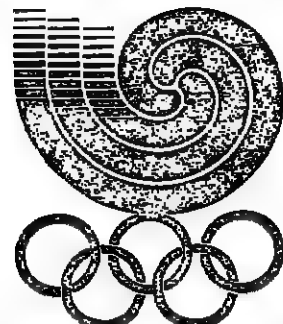


The influences of a changing society: the temple of the 1,000 Buddhas at the San Bang cave, Chesu, and the generation gap at the bus stop



James Griffiths/Robin Laurence

The battle over beef and cigarettes



CHANGING OF THE GUARD TO EUROPEAN MODEL 1988

With almost half of Korea's economic growth directly dependent on exports, the spread of protectionism in advanced countries is of prime concern to the government. The threat is not new; Korea first came into contact with United States friction in the early 1960s over textiles.

But it was not until 1979 that Korea really suffered when the US suddenly slapped a tight quota on coloured TV sets, just as the Korean consumer electronics industry was gearing up for its first generation of sophisticated consumer exports.

This measure set back the development of the electronics industry by up to two years.

Since 1979, Korean exporters have faced a continual barrage of items which are subject to quotas, non-tariff barriers of other kinds, and increasingly anti-dumping suits.

The main industry to be affected

has been textiles, under the Multi-Fiber Trade Agreements. Fortunately in this case all quotas are in terms of volume, not value, and textile companies have been able to upgrade their products to compensate for restrictions on the growth of volume. Other industries such as consumer electronics have not been so fortunate.

The growth of anti-dumping suits has been a serious problem. In the 1970s Korean companies often exported at a low rate of profit, making their profits on the domestic market where competition is restricted. However, by the 1980s domestic competition was so fierce that margins are now squeezed.

Under US trade law, dumping is defined as selling below the domestic market rate. It has often been extremely difficult to establish the domestic market rate in Korea and Korean companies have been slow to understand the importance of making clear cost calculations to satisfy the US Trade Department.

The Hyundai Motor Company is now facing a ruling on exports of cars to Canada — a market that absorbed 72,000 cars in 1986 and 50,648 cars in 1987 — which holds that since 1985 Hyundai cars were sold at between 16.2 per cent and 31.8 per cent below their equivalent domestic price. There is now a temporary tariff of 35 per cent on all Hyundai cars.

By contrast, no foreign cars could be imported into Korea until 1987, except by diplomats and military personnel. However, since July 1987 when cars could legally be

imported, the Korean tariff has dropped from 50 to 30 per cent.

In the eyes of the US administration, and increasingly by the EEC, Korean liberalization is too slow.

In dealing with Korea, the US administration which lives on a month-by-month basis, has failed to understand that it is dealing with a government that consistently plans ahead for at least five years.

The Korean government has shown willing to move on items which are neither luxuries, nor

Time scales are one of the major difficulties

agricultural items which threaten Korean farmers, but in some areas such as beef and US cigarettes the US is moving into areas where the Korean government itself cannot decide on suitable action.

The US administration has stated its goals as setting three issues: cigarette prices down to Won 700 (the Korean government offer is Won 800), beef imports of rib beef, and a ban on illegally copied textbooks before the spring term.

The case of cigarettes has become particularly unpleasant as the US tobacco companies are a rich and powerful lobby. US companies are claiming that they would "naturally" have about a 25 per cent share of the Korean market if the price of imported cigarettes were Won 700 (about 55p for 20) as against domestic cigarettes costing Won 500.

The situation over beef exports is even more critical. Korea has had a

surplus of beef for several years so that the price has dropped to the point of unprofitability. As one of a series of measures to support the beef price, the import of beef for tourist hotels was stopped in 1985.

This minor irritant has become a major issue as the US government now wishes a much freer beef trade — which ironically would favour Australia most of all, and the US much less. Politically, the protection of peasant farmers is sacrosanct.

The threat of sanctions by the US is now close and consists of more general measures to affect the Korean economy than the traditional tools of quotas, tariffs and anti-dumping measures. These are the threat to remove GSP (Generalized Scheme of Preferences) privileges, and under the US Trade Act Section 301, to impose penal duties on innocent items of trade to the value of estimated losses from the Korean government's refusal to comply with US demands.

By contrast, the proposal of the modified Gephart Bill in the US Congress is quite reasonable calling for a gradual bringing of trade surpluses into balance. This is actually speaking a language which the Korean government can understand and respond to.

Many Korean companies have been braced for the abolition of GSP privileges for some time and it is not expected to make much of a difference to exports, at most lowering export growth by 4 per cent. The EEC suspended GSP privileges for Korea last November over a failure

to take action on European intellectual property rights.

However, in the last few days the EEC has made an offer to Korea and Japan for the mutual dismantling of quota and protectionist measures — the most hopeful proposal in international trade for many months.

The most worrying feature of the removal of US GSP privileges is that it escalates the level of menace from the US. The stakes are now upped to that of a wildcat "301 action" against some major but innocent Korean exports to the US.

So far, despite the eagerness of Korean officials to reach an agreement, the US line is beyond the bounds of Korean political reality; hence Korea is heading for a "301 action" in which the US might make a trade embargo which could cost Korea about \$700 million in exports.

Korean policy makers have supposed that reducing Korea's trade surplus with the US will appease the States, as will liberalizing markets. But they must ponder the treatment meted out to free trade Hong Kong and that everytime an item is liberalized it is the Japanese who scoop the market. The problem is, that Korea and Japan are just too competitive for US companies.

The issue of US "301 actions" is not just a Korean problem as US sanctions against EEC products last year demonstrated. Korea is at the sharp edge of protectionism, but it is the whole system of world trade which is under attack.

Tony Michell

Grasping at the glittering prizes

Korea is among the top literate nations

The numbers enrolling in Korean educational institutions have rocketed eightfold since 1945 from 1.4 million to more than 11 million today.

Those attending colleges and universities alone have shown a staggering rise from around 8,000 to one million during the same period, giving South Korea one of the highest post secondary education rates in the world at over 90 per cent.

Education is highly prized but is a highly disciplined system characterized by long hours, large classes, and rote learning. The frequent student demonstrations may be as much a subconscious protest against the system itself as an overt one against any political target.

The combination of improved living and educational standards has led, not surprisingly, to heightened expectations among Koreans as a whole.

Despite a doubling of the population to 42 million since 1953, the accelerating urbanisation has almost halved the numbers engaged in agriculture, and the resultant growth of the cities has placed a severe strain on housing and all urban facilities.

Ironically, the economic boom has resulted in an erosion, if not an actual breakdown, of the traditional extended family system and Confucian social structure.

The shift from the countryside to the cities has brought about a proliferation of multi-storey apartment blocks which tend increasingly to house only nuclear family units instead of the traditional three or more generations under one roof.

Older people and the ancestral graves, hitherto the focal point of Korean family life, are left behind in the rural areas and are visited only once or twice a year at special holiday seasons like New Year or Ch'usok, the annual harvest festival.

Women are becoming increasingly active in the workforce at all levels with numbers growing sharply from 28.7 per cent of the workforce in 1981 to 38.4 per cent in

1985. They are now less inclined to accept the traditional household roles in which the male-oriented Confucian society has hitherto cast them.

Many Koreans openly agree that the authoritarian nature of their government has outlived its usefulness. The rapid economic change of the past two and a half decades they say would not have been possible without political stability, brought about and maintained by the army. But, the threat from the North that for 35 years has provided an excuse for many restrictive measures is receding.

This reason is now regarded by a growing number of Koreans, including the present student generation born since the end of the Korean War, as a pretext for the continuation of a policy of rigorous social control.

The Confucian, centralized style of government that has dominated Korean politics for centuries no longer seems appropriate in a society of growing affluence and education.

Yet the display of popular antipathy to the tactics of President Chun last spring with regard to the promised transfer of power did not, after all, result in a change of government at the recent presidential election, and the essentially conservative nature of Korean society should not be overlooked.

The overriding concern of the majority is not to lose everything they have gained since the Korean War. Among a sizeable portion of the electorate, the desire to preserve the economic status quo seems stronger at present than the desire to achieve real democratic reform.

It is perhaps inevitable that in view of its recent radical transition within a single generation from a war-torn, pre-industrial economy to one of the most rapidly advancing societies in the world, South Korea will continue to cling to old traditions in government and politics for many years to come.

Ruth Grayson

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By David H. H.

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YOUR OWN BUSINESS

A vital success without sight

By Derek Harris

A drive to encourage the blind and partially sighted to set up in business is being launched with 20 visually handicapped entrepreneurs pressing home the message.

It is the idea of the Royal National Institute for the Blind which has combined forces with the London Enterprise Agency (LEA) to mount the first enterprise fair for blind people.

Lord Young, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, is taking a special interest in the initiative and will open the fair next Wednesday, only hours before he flies off to Japan to take part in talks with Honda over the possible takeover of the Rover group by British Aerospace.

The fair is being held throughout the day at the institute's headquarters at 224, Great Portland Street, London.

The 20, who have already launched their own businesses, will be at the fair, which covers a wide span from the manufacture of Welsh willow cradles and wooden replica guns to a travel agency, accountancy, an art consultancy and the design of board games.

A competition for the best enterprising new business plan from a blind person will be launched at the fair. The winner will get £5,000, donated by Lowndes Lambert Insurance. There will be several



Barbara Wroe: She prepared a brochure in Braille

speaker sessions covering various aspects of starting-up in business. Among the speakers will be Mr Karl Spencer of SPER Consultancy, who is now only partially-sighted and knows the difficulties in business presented by visual handicaps.

The fair is an extension of work already being done by the association's small business unit, which offers encouragement and practical support to the visually handicapped who are setting up in business. It advises where to go for funding, how to get special equipment, what type of business to go into and how

100 handicapped people helped

to market goods and services. It arranges visits to other companies to give the budding entrepreneur a better idea of what faces them and how to surmount difficulties.

In 18 months the unit has helped about 100 visually handicapped people to set themselves up in business.

One of the 20 entrepreneurs at the fair will be Barbara Wroe, now 25 years old, who was fully sighted until she was 11. An hereditary degenerative condition has left her with 80 per cent deterioration in her sight, with the prospect of its still deteriorating.

Yet since November 1986 she has built up a business in selling brassware fittings for the home - from door handles to hinges and window locks. Her husband, Kevin, has now thrown up his job to share in the business, run from their home in Tooting, London, although they hope soon to move into a small business work unit in Tooting.

It has not been easy. Barbara had been in regular work, having been taught to be a telephone operator, but she likes the idea of change. She had learned about the

brassware business because her husband had been associated with the industry. Once having established sources of supply, the idea was to set up a brochure from which architects and developers could order.

Mrs Wroe said: "I am in the office taking orders and dealing with other details by phone as well as coping with the paper work." To make that possible she has prepared a brochure in Braille. She also touchtypes. Shortly she expects this system to be superseded by a computerized one, supplied by the Manpower Services Commission. It will be equipped with a voice synthesizer to cope with ordering details. Special enlargements on the display screen will enable her to check invoices and letters.

Mrs Wroe operates as Regency Brass and is starting to sell to the general public through word-of-mouth recommendation. She can be reached on (01) 767 3247.

BRIEFING

● Manchester Business School (MBS) is putting a new emphasis on helping existing small and medium-sized businesses to develop. Derek Harris writes. MBS, which pioneered small business training in Europe in 1977, has hitherto concentrated most on helping small businesses to get off the ground. Over the years MBS courses have played a key role in the establishment of nearly 200 new businesses in the North-west. Three new courses starting this spring will be aimed at generating effective management, planning company expansion and fostering advanced management techniques. Typical businesses which could benefit from the courses would have turnovers between £250,000 and £15 million.

● Contact: MBS, Booth Street West, Manchester M15 6PB; phone (061) 275 6333.

MR FRIDAY



"Let me through! - I'm an entrepreneur!"

An Anglo-Canadian towering plan

The 800 ft tower at Canary Wharf on the Isle of Dogs in London Docklands, which will become Britain's tallest building, is to be built by a new Anglo-Canadian partnership for the Canadian developers, Olympia & York.

The contract, thought to be worth about £200 million, is believed to be the biggest ever awarded in Britain, and is to be undertaken by a joint venture of Ellis Don of Ontario and Sir Robert McAlpine & Sons.

The tower, centrepiece of the £3 billion Canary Wharf development, which will dominate the skyline of Docklands, will have 50 floors, three of which will combine retail and public space. It will provide about 1.8 million sq ft of floor space and will be twice as big as any other tower previously built in Britain.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

By Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

Forming one of the biggest building projects Europe has seen and continuing its "biggest and best" theme, it will also be built as quickly as a building half its size. Olympia & York have specified that the tower must be completed in a little over two and a half years, which means the use of the most sophisticated fast-track construction methods.

Excavation work begins next month, and the first tenants will occupy the building in the autumn of 1990, with completion of the tower in the following spring. Commenting on the project, Michael Dennis, executive vice-president

of O&Y, said the tower would be one of the most important buildings to be erected in London since the early part of the 20th century, and they would ensure that it was a fine example of contemporary design, and constructed to the highest standards possible.

Ellis Don is one of North America's largest contractors and Canada's leading commercial builder. Its present projects including a 72-storey tower complex in Calgary.

Olympia & York is no stranger to huge developments, quickly completed. Among its recent work is First Canadian Place in Toronto, a development of five million sq ft, dominated by a 72-storey tower block, and the eight million sq ft World Financial Centre in New York, which includes four towers ranging from 33 to 51 storeys high.

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CRICKET

Going through the motions on yet another fruitless day

From Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent, Wellington

A series specializing in dreary batting, disputed decisions and dropped catches reeled off a familiar day at the Basin Reserve, New Zealand scored at a shade more than two runs an over, Graham Dilley had another minor tantrum and England missed an important slip catch. For Wellington, read Auckland or Christchurch.

Even the most gorgeous of cloudless days and a sun-drenched crowd in the one New Zealand Test ground where the atmosphere reeks of cricket rather than of rugby, could not elevate such events above the pleasantly ordinary. The one difference between the first day here and at Auckland, apart from New Zealand scoring six more runs from three more overs, is that this time they chose to bat, presumably with the view that this pitch, barren as it is, will aid the spinners later.

England once again did their best to shoot themselves in the foot. Only one catch went down, their twelfth miss of the series, but the beneficiary happened to be Martin Crowe, of all people. Crowe was on six at the time, scratching around like a genius with a sudden identity crisis. To remove him then would have been just the fillip New Zealand might not easily have withstood. But Embury, at first slip, took it in the midriff, whence it dropped, and Crowe, inspired by relief,

grew ominously in conviction as he reached the close on 57, his first half-century of the series.

It was cruelly appropriate that Capel was the bowler. At last granted the chance to play a full part in the bowling attack, he performed well but utterly without luck, never more so than when Wright jabbed a ball down onto the off stump just before lunch, dislodging but not removing the ball.

Capel's workload increased in proportion to his availability. Both the other seamers, Dilley and DeFreitas, were off the field at various times; although DeFreitas's problem was simply cramp, Dilley's was potentially more serious, a recurrence of an old knee injury.

Dilley bowled only 11 overs in the day, nine of them with the new ball, and was not seen after tea. He had time before lunch, however, to have another spat with the same umpire, Brian Aldridge, who so incensed him during the first Test match that he picked up a £250 fine for bad language.

The trouble occurred when Dilley, and all the close fielders, triumphantly claimed a catch behind when Franklin was beaten on the back foot. Aldridge was unmoved. Dilley distraught.

The decision to include DeFreitas ahead of Jarvis could have been thought il-

logical, but to some degree the selection was justified. Bowling his most consistent line of the tour, he gained deserved reward when Franklin, never at ease, played across his front pad and was bowled.

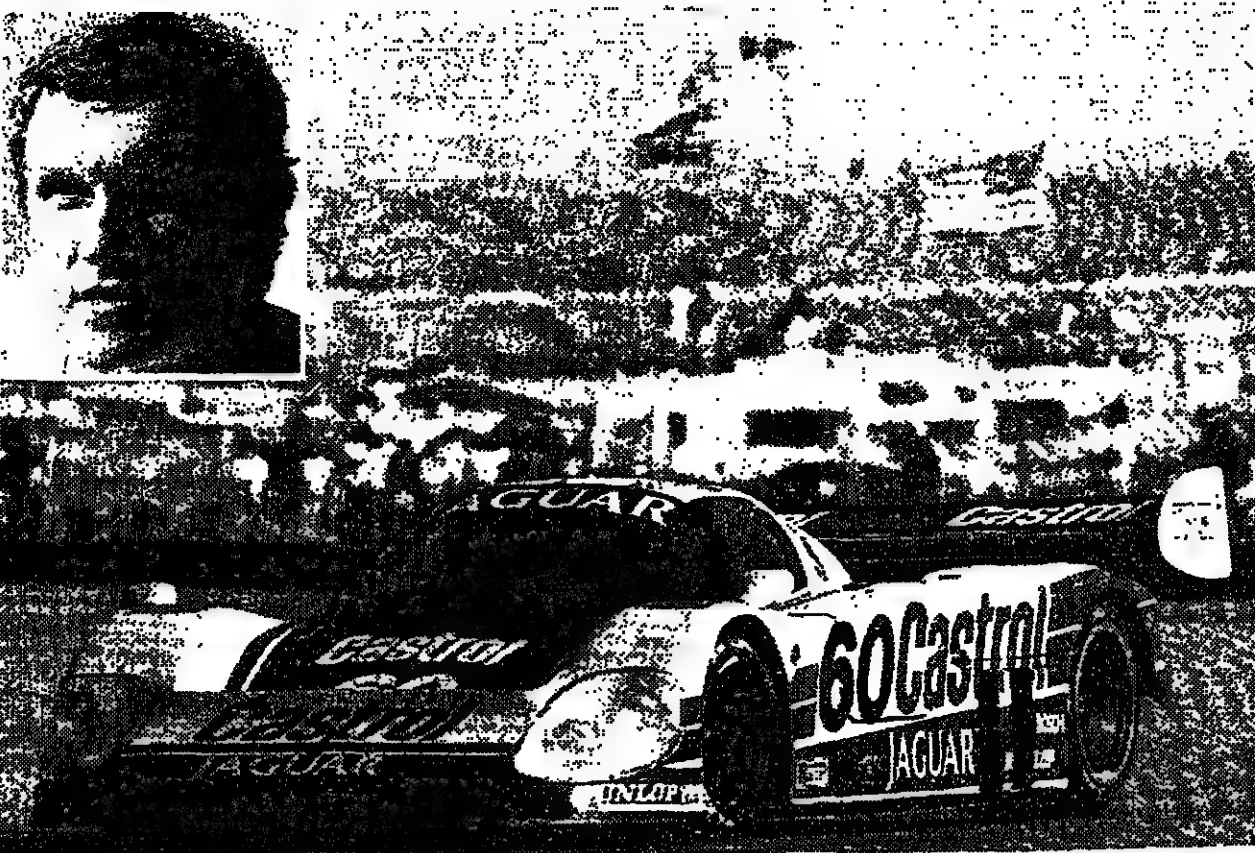
Vance, the debutant and, just possibly, a future captain, played a solid maiden innings and there were times after lunch when he seemed far more assured than Wright. The latest New Zealand captain was beaten twice in an over by Embury and two of his more forceful legside shots got no further than six feet, one striking Moxon on the knee, and the next hitting Athley, who replaced him, on the arm. In growing frustration, Wright pulled hastily at a short ball from Capel and was caught at square leg.

After tea, Crowe was eager to accelerate. He took three on-driven fours in an over from Hemmings, though only by courtesy of some slapstick fielding errors, and was sprinting determinedly for a third run against Embury when he saw that Vance had settled for two. The junior batsman himself, three short of 50.

Greatbatch was distinctly fortunate to survive his first ball, padding up to Embury, but he then began driving with the authority he showed in Auckland earlier this week. Crowe passed 50 with a resounding straight drive against Capel and New Zealand closed in a position of comfort, which might easily have been one of control if they had tried to dominate just a little more.

The overall run-rate of this series so far is 2.12 per over, which compares unfavourably with recent Test series around the world. For instance, England's home series with Pakistan last summer produced a rate of 2.8, while in the India v West Indies Tests before Christmas runs came at 3.2 per over. The inescapable fact is that Test matches are seldom won by teams unable to score slowly and New Zealand, more culpable than England in this regard, give the abiding impression of a team that considers itself fortunate to be on level terms.

Tom Walkinshaw races against time through four continents and 25 events



Life in the fast lane: Jaguar setting the American circuit alight in the 24-hour Daytona race. Inset: Tom Walkinshaw

If this is Friday it must be Spain

No one can accuse Tom Walkinshaw of standing still. At least not this week. His schedule reads like an airline timetable. Last Sunday: Miami; Monday: back to his base near Oxford; Wednesday: Geneva for the motor show; today: Jerez, in Spain, for the first race in defence of Jaguar's world sports-car championship (officially but less prosaically known as the World Sports-Prototype Championship).

The tough little Scot, though, should be spared not one iota of sympathy for such a punishing schedule. It is his own fault. It was his expertise and management which brought Jaguar their first world championship last year, his confidence that encouraged Jaguar to tackle the most ambitious programme in their illustrious racing history this year. That programme includes two United States, one for the world championship, 25 races, 10 countries, four continents. It is no wonder Walkinshaw is unable to stay in one place for long.

As overall manager of both teams he will be at every race, but if the results go as well as they have done in the first two rounds of the American series he will enjoy every one, too. The team surprised even themselves by winning the daunting 24-hour race at Daytona in January and last weekend, on the streets of Miami, they came within half a car's length of winning again.

In fact, they should have won. Walkinshaw said. "The pace car was a mistake. The car that won was a minute behind us; while the race was being paced

they had a pit stop and still came out ahead of us at the track. But that's the luck of the draw. It will even itself out over the season. If you had done a deal with me at Christmas which ensured that we came first and second in the first two races, I would have accepted it gratefully."

This Sunday, in the romantically named Jerez de la Frontera, on the tip of southern Spain, Walkinshaw's racing team, TWR, has prepared three XJR 9s to begin the defence of the world championship. Last year, the team won

Calendar of the season

World Sports-Prototype Championship
March 6: Jerez; March 13: Jarama, April 10: Monza; May 8: Silverstone; June 11 to 12: Le Mans; July 16: Brno; July 24: Brands Hatch; September 6: Nürburgring; September 18: Spa; October 8: Fuji; November 26: Sandown.

The first two races, in Jerez and Jarama, and so demoralized Porsche that they withdrew their works team. Jaguar won eight out of the 10 world championship races and only the fact that one of those two losses was Le Mans, the race Jaguar most wanted to win, marred an otherwise perfect season. But Walkinshaw is not about to let complacency spoil his plans. He has a Dalglislian attitude to past glories. "Last year means nothing," he said bluntly.

One Mercedes and several privately entered Porsche 962s, one in the unusually capable hands of Derek Bell, of Britain, are enough to make life quite as difficult as last year, particularly as there have been changes in regulations to try to

slow the cars down. The next few days will be some of the most nerve-racking of the season for Walkinshaw, the time when you can do no more than hope that your preparations have been good enough.

The Scot's record as a driver, which includes a European touring car championship, and as a highly successful businessman — 17 companies come under his TWR banner — suggests that hope plays little part in his plans. But Jerez is a tight circuit, notoriously hard on gearboxes in six-hour endurance racing, and motor racing is not an exact science, anyway.

"We've got to work equally hard, if not harder, to stay at the top this year," he said. "But having the two programmes should help. Over here we have reached the top; in America, we are trying to establish ourselves in a new environment. That fresh spirit will keep the whole team fresh."

As strong and uncompromising as his upbringing on a Scottish farm would suggest, Walkinshaw brings off the physical demands of co-ordinating two programmes often on different sides of the world. "Most of the work should have been done already. When the race comes I'm just the tactician and I've managed every year so far, so I think I'll survive," he said with a grin.

But come the last race of the season in Australia next November, even he might reckon that the time has come to stand still for a while.

Andrew Longmore

RUGBY LEAGUE

Playing for gold at the end of rainbow

By Keith Macklin

No one of sound mind tipped Hull and Salford to reach the semi-finals of the Silk Cut Challenge Cup, and it is a safe bet that even in Humber and Greater Manchester only a few crazed optimists gave them the remotest chance of getting to within one game of Wembley. Yet for both clubs the Wembley pinnacle would be quite literally a financial life saver.

Both teams have struggled all season against relegation from mounting debts and poor gates. Both had taken hideings before their quarter-final games, with Hull conceding nearly 100 points in two League matches while Salford slumped heavily at home to Castleford. Even in the quarter-final victory over Doncaster, Hull had to fight back from 12-2 down.

Yet now the two clubs stand just one vital fixture away from massive Wembley gate receipts, Silk Cut sponsorship money, television fees and all the other financial windfalls.

Already the value of reaching the semi-final stage is being felt at The Boulevard and The Willows, two grounds which have known glory days followed by depressing decline, with Hull the worst sufferers after their heady and wonderful years of success in the 1970s and early 1980s. John Rawlings, the Hull chairman, admits he hardly dares contemplate defeat in the semi-final at Headingley against the Cup holders, Halifax, so important is victory to a club which is more than £400,000 in debt. "Despite our bad season, and the defeat at Warrington this week, the lads are quite capable of lifting their game and playing above themselves for this one match, lasting 80 minutes, and we have already beaten Halifax on their own ground in the League this season."

Salford, too, regard the semi-final as a major boost, leading to a pot of gold at the end of an unexpected rainbow. This is Salford's first semi-final for 19 years.

As the Salford debts have receded, the chairman, John Wilkinson, has led a team of directors with enthusiasm and with a lot of his own money.

David Tarry, the commercial manager, can already feel the effects of Salford's remarkable stock rise last Sunday over the brilliant St Helens team in the quarter-finals. "The telephone has never stopped ringing with people wanting tickets for the semi-final at Bolton, and with local business companies who suddenly realize that we exist. We win the semi-final, we could triple our gates from 3,000 to nearly 10,000."

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J G Wright c Fairbrother b Capel	36	46	48	50	52	54	56	58	60	62	64	66	68	70	72	74	76	78	80	82	84	86	88	90	92	94	96	98	100
T J Franklin lbw b DeFreitas	14	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
R D Vance run out (Broad/Embrey)	57	2	183	148																									
M D Crowe not out	34	8	170	148																									
M J Greatbatch not out	4																												
Extras (lb 4)	34																												
Total (3 wickets, 92 overs)	192																												

K R Brathwaite, J G Bracewell, J D S Smith, S L Block, D K Morrison and E J Davidson to bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-33, 2-78, 3-132.
BOWLING: Dilley 11-1-36-0; DeFreitas 21-1-10-31-1; Capel 19-4-42-1; Embury 19-5-33-0; Hemmings 21-8-46-0.

ENGLAND

B C Broad, M D Moxon, R T Robinson, M W Gatting, N H Fairbrother, D J Capel, J E Embury, P A J DeFreitas, E E Hemmings and G R Dilley.
Umpires: B L Aldridge and S J Woodward.

House of Lords

Law Report March 4 1988

House of Lords

Part-time work normal for benefit

Chief Adjudication Officer v Brunt

Before Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Havers, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook, Lord Templeman and Lord Oliver of Aylmerton [Speeches March 3]

For the purpose of deciding whether a claimant for unemployment benefit engaged in temporary part-time work was "employed to the full extent normal in his case" within the meaning of regulation 7(1)(e) of the Social Security (Unemployment, Sickness and Invalidity Benefit) Regulations (SI 1983 No 1598), the entire period which had elapsed since the cessation of his full-time employment, including both his unemployment and part-time employment, had to be considered.

If the only evidence of future employment was part-time work then notwithstanding its temporary nature such employment had become the normal pattern of work for the claimant and accordingly he was precluded from receiving unemployment benefit.

The House of Lords so held dismissing an appeal by the claimant, Vincent Anthony Brunt, from the Court of Appeal (The Times August 19, 1987; [1987] 3 WLR 1200) who had reversed the decision of the social security commissioners that he was entitled to benefit. Regulation 7(1)(e) of the 1983 Regulations provided: "... a day shall not be treated as a day of unemployment if on that day a person does no work and is a person who does not ordinarily work on every day in a week ... but who is, in the week in which the said day occurs, employed to the full extent normal in his case ..."

Mr Frederic Reynold, QC and

Mr Mark Rowland for the claimant; Mr David Latham, QC and Mr Richard Drabble for the Chief Adjudication Officer.

LORD TEMPLEMAN said that the question was whether, upon the true construction of regulation 7(1)(e) temporary part-time employment under a community programme scheme was relevant in determining whether the claimant was "employed to the full extent normal in his case".

The claimant was employed for two-and-a-half days a week under a community programme scheme. He claimed unemployment benefit for the remaining three days of the week. His claim was rejected by the adjudication officer and his appeal to the local tribunal was dismissed. The claimant appealed successfully to the tribunal of social security commissioners but their decision was reversed by the Court of Appeal.

The claimant was employed full-time after he left school for five years. He then became unemployed and qualified for unemployment benefit which was paid to him from January 1982 until January 1983 when he ceased to be entitled under section 18 of the Social Security Act 1975.

After a period of unemployment which lasted for one year and nine months, the claimant on October 25, 1983 was employed under the community programme scheme. He was employed initially for six months but his employment continued for a further six months. By section 18(2) of the 1975 Act a person who had exhausted his right to unemployment benefit re-qualified for benefit when he had again been in employment for 13 weeks and had worked for

16 hours a week or more. The claimant re-qualified for benefit 13 weeks after he began work under the community programme scheme.

When a worker abandoned full-time work and voluntarily reduced his activity to part-time work then he changed his normal employment from full-time to part-time. But workers in time of high unemployment might be forced to leave full-time employment and to engage in part-time work, either with the same employer or with a different employer.

They might be able to take part-time employment at once, or, as in the case of the claimant, they might accept part-time employment after a long period of unemployment. There were therefore many different circumstances in which regulation 7(1)(e) fell to be applied. The payment of unemployment benefit was intended to be a swift and certain form of relief for a claimant who was out of work. Once he had become a claimant he had a chequered history of full employment, unemployment and part-time employment, regulation 7(1)(e) bristled with ambiguity and doubt.

In those circumstances, the commissioners invented the rough and ready *prima facie* rule that after a claimant had worked part-time for a year, he became a person who does not ordinarily work on every day in a week and was debarred from claiming benefit because he was "employed to the full extent normal in his case".

If a full-time worker became a three-day part-time worker, then at the end of a year, he would not be entitled to unemployment benefit for the remaining three days in each week. Once he had become a three-day part-time worker, then if in any week he was

employed only for two days he could, in respect of that week, claim benefit for one day unless and until in the due passage of time he became a two-day part-time worker.

It seemed to his Lordship that consistently with that approach when full-time employment was followed by a period of unemployment and was then followed by a period of part-time employment, then in order to determine whether during the period of part-time employment the worker was employed to the full extent normal in his case, consideration had to be given, together with other facts, to the whole period which had elapsed since the worker ceased in fact to be employed full-time.

Both the period of unemployment and the period of part-time employment had to be taken into account. The commissioners disregarded the work of the claimant under the community programme scheme because it was a fixed temporary period.

His Lordship agreed with Lord Justice Ralph Gibson who in giving judgment in the present case said (at p1219): "The only evidence of employment in the future was continuing part-time employment. The fact that the existing pattern of part-time employment had a likely ending six months after it started does not in my judgment provide any basis for saying that such employment was not in the relevant work the normal pattern of work for him."

His Lordship would dismiss the appeal.

Lord Bridge, Lord Havers, Lord Brandon and Lord Oliver agreed.

Solicitors: Rowley Ashworth, Wimbeldon; Rowley Ashworth, Exeter; DHSS Solicitor.

British Amusement Catering Trades Association and Another v Westminster City Council

Before Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Fraser of Tullybelton, Lord Lowry, Lord Griffiths and Lord Ackner [Speeches March 3]

The operation of a video amusement game was not a "cinematograph exhibition" within the meaning of the relevant statutes and a licence was not required for premises containing such machines.

The House of Lords so stated allowing an appeal by the plaintiffs, British Amusement Catering Trades Association and First Leisure Corporation plc from the Court of Appeal (The Times March 27, 1987; [1987] 1 WLR 977) which held by a majority that such a licence was required.

Section 1(3) of the Cinematograph Act 1909, as amended by the Cinematograph (Amendment) Act 1982, provides: "In this Act 'cinematograph exhibition' means any exhibition of moving pictures which is produced otherwise than by the simultaneous reception and exhibition of television programmes broadcast by the British Broadcasting Corporation or the Independent Broadcasting Authority or distributed by a system licensed by the Secretary of State under section 89 of the Post Office Act 1969."

MR JUSTICE WOOD said that some 304 employees were dismissed on September 5, 1986. The company accepted that it did not consult over the proposed redundancies as required by section 99 of the 1975 Act, but argued, *inter alia*, that there were special circumstances which rendered it not reasonably practicable.

They raised the defence that a protective award should not be made because over the maximum period of such an award, namely 90 days, it had paid each employee a payment of 13 weeks' pay. They further contended that there would be no protective award under the provisions of section 102(3).

The industrial tribunal decided that the company was entitled to deduct from the employees' entitlement under the protective award a sum which was calculated as the net earnings during any length of statutory notice during the period commencing with their dismissal.

There were three general points:
1 The need for simplicity in labour law.
2 The fact that the provisions of Part IV of the 1975 Act formed a separate code from Part V of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978 so that decisions on the calculation of compensatory awards under

section 89 of the Post Office Act 1969.

Mr Anthony Scrivener, QC and Mr Richard Field, QC, for the plaintiffs; Mr David Barker, QC and Mr John Rylance for the defendant authority.

LORD GRIFFITHS said that the first plaintiff was a trade association of which the second plaintiff was a member. The latter operated an amusement arcade which contained a number of machines known as video amusement games.

In 1983 the licensing authority informed the second plaintiff that a licence was required for the premises on the ground that the video games were "cinematograph exhibitions" within the meaning of the 1909 Act as amended. The plaintiffs disagreed with that view.

The plaintiffs took out an originating summons to determine the issue. The judge, Mr Justice Mervyn Davies, and the majority of the Court of Appeal, in arriving at that conclusion his Lordship had given weight to the title of the Acts. The use of the word "cinematograph" immediately brought to mind a film show but hardly alerted one to the possibility that it was to deal with the totally different activity involved in a video game. His Lordship had also been assisted by consideration of the content of the regulations. Section 1 of the 1982 Act

accepted the argument that because the screen of a video game displayed moving objects, there was therefore an exhibition of moving pictures within the meaning of the Act. That approach failed to take into account the different shades of meaning attached to the English language to the use of the word "cinematograph" according to the context in which it was used and, in particular, failed to give sufficient weight to the primary dictionary meaning of "exhibit" — "especially to show publicly for the purpose of amusement or instruction".

It was true that the 1982 Act now covered exhibitions for private gain in order to catch pornographic cinema clubs but reading the Act as a whole and the regulations made thereunder his Lordship had no doubt that "exhibition" was used in the sense of a show to an audience and not in the sense of a display of moving objects on the screen of a video game.

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applied the existing regulations, the Cinematograph (Safety) Regulations (SI 1955 No 1129), to the exhibitions of moving pictures. Those regulations were inapt to cover amusement arcades and other places where video games were normally located.

The regulations only made sense if the "cinematograph" in the regulations were understood in the sense of a show to an audience. There were frequent references to the auditorium of which the definition in the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary was "that part of a public building occupied by the audience".

The regulations were dealing with the precautions necessary to protect an audience at a film show. Parliament used the phrase "cinematograph exhibition" in the sense of a film show in the regulations, must have intended to use the phrase in the same sense in the 1982 Act, which it adopted the regulations.

His Lordship had no doubt that the phrase an "exhibition of moving pictures" in the Cinematograph Acts meant a film show which did not include a video amusement game.

Lord Bridge, Lord Fraser, Lord Lowry and Lord Ackner agreed.

Solicitors: Taro Lyons Randall Rose; Mr G. Matthew Ives.

Gross wages in lieu can be set off against award

Vosper Thornycroft (UK) Ltd v Transport and General Workers Union and Another

Before Mr Justice Wood, Mrs M. L. Boyle and Miss A. P. Vale (Judgment February 4)

Shipbuilders ordered to pay protective awards following their failure to consult staff about proposed redundancies were held to be entitled to set off against the awards the gross amount of 13 weeks' wages in lieu of notice paid by them to the redundant staff.

The phrase "by way of damages for breach of ... contract" in section 102(3) of the Employment Protection Act 1975 should be construed broadly to enable the gross rather than the net amount of any payment to be set off against the award.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal so held when allowing an appeal by the employers, Vosper Thornycroft (UK) Ltd, from a decision of a Southampton industrial tribunal in February 1987 granting applications for protective awards by the Transport and General Workers Union and the General Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Trade Union. The tribunal had held that only the employees' net earnings should be deducted.

Mr Alan Wilkie for the company; Mr D. W. Harriman, union official, for the TGWU; Mr J O'Hara, legal adviser, for the GMBATU.

MR JUSTICE WOOD said that some 304 employees were dismissed on September 5, 1986. The company accepted that it did not consult over the proposed redundancies as required by section 99 of the 1

FOOTBALL

Steaua unlikely to be intimidated by Ibrox atmosphere

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

Glasgow Rangers still naturally believe that they can overtake Steaua Bucharest and move into the semi-finals of the European Cup for the first time in 28 years. Yet they are clinging on to optimism that is as substantial as a piece of driftwood floating down a swollen river of reality.

The evidence in support of the Romanian champions seems utterly convincing. Indeed, Rangers are fortunate that any thoughts about the possible outcome of the second leg of the quarter-final tie has not already been rendered meaningless. Steaua might by now be five goals ahead, rather than only two.

The Scots will rely heavily on the raucous atmosphere that is generated within their own Ibrox stadium. Gornik Zabrze were so intimidated by it in the second round, for instance, that they submitted without raising a challenge.

The Poles were feeble. Steaua are not, either mentally or physically. They have performed before in hostile ter-

rities. Eight members of the side chosen for the first leg on Wednesday afternoon are internationals and seven of them hold a European Cup winner's medal.

Two years ago they beat a Spanish club, Seville, on penalties in the final. Their collective nerve is strong and their talents are unmistakable.

Although the contribution of Lacatus was forestalled by a pulled muscle and the influence of Hagi was restricted, after a typically robust tackle from Roberts, the pair were, for half an hour, ominously and persistently destructive.

Before Lacatus departed Steaua were, at times, almost loving with their opponents. Wilkins agreed that the manner in which they floated over the mud and into the holes they cut in the Rangers' back four was reminiscent of Liverpool. "They moved the ball around superbly in the first half," he said.

Although he added that

"they are a great team and it was a very hard game", he can envisage a different picture being painted in a fortnight. He pointed out that Bumbescu, a defender and the last of the six players to be booked, will be suspended.

"I would like to see how they defend without him and, although they had a lot of possession in the second half, they didn't penetrate us, apart from that silly second goal," Wilkins added. In deflecting Iovan's free kick beyond the reach of Woods, Cooper's inadvertent intervention could prove crucial.

Four years ago Wilkins was in the Manchester United side that recovered from a 2-0 defeat at Barcelona to score the winning goal 10 minutes from the end of the return.

To hope for a repetition of such drama is, perhaps, not so far-fetched. McColist, whose selection a week ago under- going "keyhole" surgery on a damaged cartilage was not unexpected, has already proved that miracles can happen.

Two players who took the Continental plunge



Expatriate experiences: Wilkins (left) enjoyed intermittent success in Italy; Hughes looks to Germany for a decisive interruption to a Spanish nightmare

Wilkins warns of the bargain basement

By Stuart Jones

Ray Wilkins, who has been purchased by two wealthy clubs, fears that the Italians in particular are about to buy even more home players because the prices in the domestic market place are comparatively so low. Britain, he says, is the bargain basement of the global game.

Now that Italian clubs are able to import a third foreigner, he believes that they will search throughout England and Scotland for cheap but reliable goods. "We may not have the technical ability but we know that we are honest, we work hard and we don't cost much."

He recalls the reaction at AC Milan when Juventus agreed to buy Rash from Liverpool for £3

million. "That made us all sit up. It is one of the best strikers in the world but, even so, we were surprised they were prepared to pay that much for a British player."

"Then look what happened. A month later my own club announced that they were going to get Rash for £5 million and was keen for almost the same amount. Both of them were playing in Holland which is only some 40 minutes away from England across the North Sea."

The arrival of the two Dutch internationals led to his own departure to France. Paris Saint-Germain told him that they were looking for "the typical English characteristic of steel and tenacity. Me, tenacious?" he asked. The accompanying smile

suggested that the question was rhetorical.

His own experience in Paris may serve as a warning to those who might be tempted to go abroad. He was competing for a place with Susic, a Yugoslav, and Calderon, an Argentinian. Both were forwards. "We were down near the bottom of the table and couldn't score goals. So those two played in almost all the home games."

Convinced that his less temperamental attitude would be more valuable away, Paris Saint-Germain selected him only ten times in four months. "I was fading away and it came home to me when I read an article in L'Equipe about the British players who were playing in France," he said.

"Six of them were included

but I wasn't mentioned. I wasn't recognised in France and nobody was even hearing about me in England." A month later, last November, Graeme Souness beamed him by asking him to sign for Glasgow Rangers and to rejuvenate his career at the age of 31.

"I didn't think I was his type of player," he said. "We've had some interesting incidents on the pitch in the past and it is much more comfortable playing alongside rather than against him." The prospect of returning to European competition, though attractive, was not a relevant factor in his decision.

Rangers are using him to teach their promising youngsters but the former captain of Chelsea, Manchester United

and England has not yet considered retirement. "I've got a couple of years left," he added. "It would have been a decade if I'd stayed in France because I would have been so fresh."

"I know that people have talked about me going back to Stamford Bridge as the manager but I've never given that a thought." If he was in charge of a British club, he would attempt to hold on to any rich assets that were on his playing staff.

He said: "Clubs here have to make it worthwhile for them to stay and there are ways of doing that beyond financial incentives. The places for an extra foreigner in Italy is an obvious threat. It is now up to English clubs to make sure they keep all of their best players."

Oswestry have nowhere to play

Non-League football by Paul Newman

Oswestry Town, the oldest senior club in the world, have been forced to resign from the Northern Premier League after failing to find a new ground.

Substantial debts forced the Shropshire club, formed in 1860, to sell its Victoria Road ground and a development company last year and two plans to move to different sites have fallen through.

The first proposed move failed because of the discovery of a covenant restricting the use of the land and the second collapsed this week when the club failed to reach agreement with the county council on redeveloping an existing sports stadium in the town.

James Bond, the Oswestry secretary, said yesterday: "It's ironic that for the first time for years we have a healthy bank balance, yet nowhere to play. We are very disappointed with the apathy of the local councillors and the people of the town in general."

Oswestry, who were founder members of the Football Association, have a healthy bank balance, yet nowhere to play. We are very disappointed with the apathy of the local councillors and the people of the town in general."

They intend to field their first team instead of their reserves in the Central Wales League. Their last game in the NPL will be against Macclesfield on April 2.

The NPL is likely to replace Oswestry by seeking applications from the Northern Counties East League and East North

West Counties League. The two feeder leagues already have a promotion and relegation agreement with the NPL which will not be affected by Oswestry's resignation.

The Football Association will discuss next week the NPL's plan to expand its first division from 19 clubs to 22 next season. The NPL plans to admit two Drybroughs Northern League clubs, Bishop Auckland and Whitley Bay, and Newtown, from the Central Wales League.

The NPL is also likely to have discussions in the near future with the Drybroughs Northern League over a possible merger or permanent link.

Yevell Town's run of seven successive victories, which had taken them to the top of the Vauxhall-Oxel League, ended last Saturday with a 1-1 draw at home to Mifflin Town, the bottom club. It was only the second goal Yevell had conceded at home in the League in nearly six months during a sequence of 10 victories and three draws. On Tuesday, Yevell suffered their first League defeat of 1988 when they lost 1-0 away to Leytonstone.

Kim Casey, the Kidderminster Harriers forward, will miss the rest of the season after breaking a leg against Welling. Cheltenham Town have paid a club record fee of £10,000 for David Mogg, the Bath City goalkeeper.

Francis Awartire, who has scored 24 goals in 65 appearances for Sutton United since joining the club from Tooting and Mitcham a year ago, has been put on the transfer list.

Real are in royal spirits

By Clive White

One cannot escape the feeling that this is the year Real Madrid will reclaim the European Cup that was virtually their private property during the 1950s. Three goals down to Bayern Munich in Munich on Wednesday, they came back from the frozen dead in the last six minutes.

The two goals which, with outrageous hospitality, Bayern bestowed upon their guests, meant that the 3-2 defeat for Real in the first leg of the quarter-final round was to all intents a victory.

In the opening seconds of the game, Wolfthurn rattled their crossbar with a vigorous header but, instead of feeling alarmed for the safety of the Spaniards, one sensed that it was a sign that their lack would hold good.

While privately he may have felt as grateful as a man relieved on the steps of the gallows, Leo Beenhakker, the Real manager, was on the offensive afterwards, in keeping with his approach to the game. "My friend, Mr Casarin (the referee), robbed us of two penalties. The two goals were not more than we deserved. As I am concerned the score is now as good as goalless."

Mark Hughes, who was making his European Cup debut in the colours of Bayern, drew solace from the thought that Real "always give you a chance the way they play". But Bernabeu Stadium, which has never had greater reversals of fortune than Real require now.

Hughes's stock gains value on the common market

By Clive White

Despite our good intentions, chivalry and what have you, Britain often seems incapable of bridging the gap with Europe. It is certainly not for want of trying, though, on the part of British footballers. Despite frequent rejection by our European cousins, they keep coming back for more.

Mark Hughes is a case in point. Few have suffered the sort of grievous harm, physically as well as mentally, as Hughes did when dropped last April from all competitive action by his club Barcelona. Hughes is still embittered. Displaying a greater understanding of the Spanish tongue than the language of their football, Hughes told a Spanish journalist after Wednesday's European Cup quarter-final in Munich: "I do not think I will ever return to Barcelona. If they wanted me they would never have let me come here."

The "here" in question is Bayern Munich, to whom Hughes has been leased until the end of the season, where his aggressive, honest style earns a warmer appreciation than it ever did in austere Spain. A glutton for punishment, Hughes is now seriously considering doing the Continental all over again.

"Before I came here I was

looking forward to just playing football and expect you to play," he said. "They just weren't bothered with the little things that keep players happy like whether the telephone is connected. That's not the case at Bayern, probably because Leo Beenhakker, the manager, was a player himself. He understands."

It is unreasonable to expect young players from modest backgrounds to uproot and transfer their natural talents into totally new environments. Whether Hughes can build on his early minor success in West Germany depends upon a single-minded approach to the challenge. Unless you are a player of outside talent as John Charles clearly was, this seems to be the predominant quality running through most of Hughes's successful predecessors like Keegan, Brady, Souness and, intermittently, Hareley and Wilkins.

Hughes insists that he is a better player for the move abroad, more able to adapt to different styles than confront today's international football. One is inclined to believe him. "It's a good opportunity that not many young players get," he said. "I thought it was worth having a go."

Being a forward of typical British stock, Hughes found it hard to adapt in Spain and in Barcelona he could not have chosen a more fickle club, the Catalans being a law unto themselves. Leo Beenhakker, the Real Madrid manager, described it as the cruelest place to play or manage in a country which is generally not a cruel place.

"They were looking for a different kind of player, all fancy flicks," Hughes said. "That has never been my game, and it didn't lend itself to their style."

From the start, communications between the two were poor. Because of the convenience of the English connection with Terry Venables and Gary Lineker, Hughes did not feel compelled to stick with his Spanish lessons, something which could be at the root of the problem that Rush, Hughes's Welsh team colleague, is experiencing at Juventus.

OVERSEAS TRANSFERS TO DATE

Date	Player	From	To	Fees (£)	Club now
1980	L Brady	Arsenal	Juventus	600,000	W Ham
1981	J Jordan	Man Utd	AC Milan	250,000	Bristol C
1982	T Francis	Man City	Sampdoria	500,000	Rangers
1982	P Barnes	Leeds Utd	Real Betis	115,000	Man City
1983	L Blissett	Watford	AC Milan	1m	Watford
1983	J Richards	Wolves	Mantova	Free	Retired
1983	D Fairclough	Liverpool	Lucerne	Free	Beveren
1983	T Ross	Everton	AEK Athens	180,000	Bury
1983	T Langley	C Palace	AEK Athens	5,000	Aldershot
1983	G Armstrong	Watford	Real Mallorca	200,000	Brighton
1983	J Burt	Rangers	Lokeren	240,000	Aberdeen
1984	R Latchford	Swansea	NAC Breda	Free	Merthyr
1984	I Wallace	Nottm Forest	Brest	100,000	In Australia
1984	M McGhee	Aberdeen	SV Hamburg	265,000	Celtic
1984	R Wilkins	Man Utd	AC Milan	1.5m	Rangers
1984	A King	Everton	Cambur	Free	Aldershot
1984	M Hareley	Portsmouth	AC Milan	915,000	Monaco
1984	G Souness	Liverpool	Sampdoria	550,000	Rangers
1984	S Arncliffe	Tottenham	Barcelona	1m	Blackburn
1985	G Cowans	R Middlesbrough	Sari	850,000	Still there
1985	R Mould	Arsenal	S Lissbon	60,000	Brest
1986	E Black	Aberdeen	Metz	200,000	Still there
1986	M Hughes	Man Utd	Barcelona	2.3m	Bayern
1986	G Lineker	Everton	Barcelona	2.75m	Still there
1986	R Rush	Liverpool	Juventus	3.2m	Still there
1986	D Tempest	Huddersfield	Lokeren	Unknown	Colchester
1986	G Owen	WBA	Panionios	Free	Sheff Wed
1986	L Donohue	Norwich	La Coruna	50,000	Still there
1986	T Woodcock	Arsenal	Cologne	140,000	Still there
1986	S Mellett	QPR	Orgyite	Free	Modelling
1986	A Dick	Tottenham	Alex	Free	Still there
1986	J Jakub	Bury	AZ 67	20,000	Still there
1987	M Robinson	QPR	Ossana	150,000	Still there
1987	T McInnes	Rangers	Soviet	200,000	Still there
1987	G Brown	Norwich	Groningen	30,000	Still there
1987	M McLeod	Celtic	B Dortmund	250,000	Still there
1987	M Johnston	Celtic	Nantes	350,000	Still there
1987	G Hoddle	Spurs	Morocco	800,000	Still there
1987	A Viles	Man City	Nissa	400,000	Still there
1987	S Lee	QPR	Ossana	200,000	Still there
1987	F Stapleton	Man Utd	Alex	Free	Still there
1987	G O'Boyle	Unltd	Bordeaux	75,000	Still there
1987	G Lison	Unltd	Unltd	Unknown	Still there
1987	D Swindhurst	Sunderland	Unltd	Unknown	Still there
1987	J Devine	ex-Norwich	East Bengal	No fee	Still there
1988	G Bailey	ex-Man Utd	Kaizer Chiefs	No fee	Still there
1988	G Waddock	QPR	Charlton	No fee	Still there

WEDNESDAY'S FOOTBALL RESULTS

EUROPEAN CUP: Quarter-finals, first leg. Steaua Bucharest 2, Rangers 1. (Rangers: 1. P. Barnes, 2. T. Francis, 3. J. Jordan, 4. G. Souness, 5. R. Wilkins, 6. A. King, 7. M. Hareley, 8. D. Fairclough, 9. T. Ross, 10. T. Langley, 11. G. Armstrong, 12. J. Burt, 13. R. Latchford, 14. I. Wallace, 15. M. McGhee, 16. R. Wilkins, 17. A. King, 18. M. Hareley, 19. D. Fairclough, 20. T. Ross, 21. T. Langley, 22. G. Armstrong, 23. J. Burt, 24. R. Latchford, 25. I. Wallace, 26. M. McGhee, 27. R. Wilkins, 28. A. King, 29. M. Hareley, 30. D. Fairclough, 31. T. Ross, 32. T. Langley, 33. G. Armstrong, 34. J. Burt, 35. R. Latchford, 36. I. Wallace, 37. M. McGhee, 38. R. Wilkins, 39. A. King, 40. M. Hareley, 41. D. Fairclough, 42. T. Ross, 43. T. Langley, 44. G. Armstrong, 45. J. Burt, 46. R. Latchford, 47. I. Wallace, 48. M. McGhee, 49. R. Wilkins, 50. A. King, 51. M. Hareley, 52. D. Fairclough, 53. T. Ross, 54. T. Langley, 55. G. Armstrong, 56. J. Burt, 57. R. Latchford, 58. I. Wallace, 59. M. 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